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International drug control

International cooperation against the world drug problem

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/178 of 16 December 2005, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-first session a report on the implementation of that resolution with a focus on transit countries. The report provides an overview of the implementation of mandates relating to international drug control, in particular the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, held from 8 to 10 June 1998.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 60/178 of 16 December 2005, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", the General Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to the outcome of its twentieth special session, devoted to countering the world drug problem together, held in New York from 8 to 10 June 1998, and reaffirmed the importance of the commitments of Member States in meeting the objectives targeted for 2008 set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at the twentieth special session.[1] In resolution 60/178, the Assembly also reaffirmed the Joint Ministerial Statement and further measures to implement the action plans emanating from the twentieth special session of the Assembly (A/58/124, sect. II.A), adopted during the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and the importance of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,[2] and called upon all relevant actors to continue their close cooperation with Governments in promoting and implementing the outcomes of the twentieth special session and of the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission.

2. In the area of demand reduction in resolution 60/178, the Assembly urged all Member States to implement the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and to strengthen their national efforts to counter the abuse of illicit drugs in their population. In section II of the resolution, the Assembly called upon States to enhance support for alternative development and eradication programmes undertaken by countries affected by the illicit cultivation of cannabis, especially in Africa, opium poppy and coca bush, in particular national programmes that seek to reduce social marginalization and promote sustainable economic development; to encourage international cooperation, including preventive alternative development, to prevent illicit crop cultivation from emerging in or being relocated to other areas; to provide greater access to their markets for products of alternative development programmes; to establish or reinforce national mechanisms to monitor illicit crops; and to empower local communities and authorities in order to increase their ownership of alternative development projects.

3. The General Assembly encouraged the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the global coordinating body in international drug control and as the governing body of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the International Narcotics Control Board to continue their work on the control of precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; and requested the Office to continue to strengthen dialogue with Member States and to ensure continued improvement in management.

Trends in the world drug markets

4. The *World Drug Report 2006*[3] of UNODC indicated that there was evidence of long-term containment of the world drug problem as well as encouraging signs for the medium term. It noted that global opium production had fallen by 5 per cent in 2005, while cocaine production remained broadly stable. Seizures of both drugs, especially cocaine, reached record levels. The consumption of cannabis, the most

widely used illicit drug, continued to increase, while the market for amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) stabilized. It was noted that Africa has a growing importance for trans-shipments of cocaine and heroin to Europe. Overall, the global drug market trends appeared to be moving in the right direction, but Governments need to intensify their efforts to reduce both supply and demand.

5. In 2005, the estimated global area under illicit opium cultivation decreased by 22 per cent as a result of reduced cultivation in the three main source countries of illicit opium: Afghanistan, Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. There were some notable successes. The Lao People's Democratic Republic, which until the mid-1990s was the world's third-largest illicit opium producer, cut opium production by 72 per cent in 2005 and was on the verge of becoming opium-free. In Afghanistan, the world's largest opium producer, from 2004 to 2005 the area under opium poppy cultivation fell 21 per cent, to 104,000 hectares, the first such decline since 2001. However, the drug situation remains vulnerable in that country due to poverty, the lack of security and challenges in controlling the territory. As a result, encouraging trends could be reversed despite the large-scale eradication of opium crops in early 2006.

6. The extent of drug abuse is an important indicator of the magnitude of the global drug problem. Based on data provided by Governments, the total number of illicit drug users worldwide is estimated to be approximately 200 million people, roughly 5 per cent of the global population age 15-64. There are approximately 25 million people worldwide considered to be drug addicts or problem drug users, which is equivalent to 0.6 per cent of the population age 15-64. That global estimate has not varied much in recent years because increases in some countries have been offset by declines in others.

7. Some encouraging trends in the coca and cocaine markets were noted. Coca cultivation and cocaine production were broadly stable, while seizures of cocaine rose to record levels. Global cocaine use declined slightly, although demand for cocaine has risen in Western Europe. After increases in the 1990s, the market for ATS has stabilized, reflecting improved law enforcement and better precursor control. Some 25 million people used amphetamines at least once in 2004, while some 10 million people used Ecstasy. Total ATS production was estimated at 480 tons in 2004, down from its peak in 2000. Cannabis, the world's most abused illicit drug, deserves special attention. It was used at least once by an estimated 162 million people in 2004, equivalent to about 4 per cent of the global population age 15-64, and consumption continues to increase. Cannabis is now considerably more potent that it was a few decades ago, and evidence is mounting that its use can cause serious mental illness. Addressing the cannabis pandemic requires a consistent commitment across the political spectrum and from society at large. In spite of some encouraging signs, three key weaknesses in the global drug control situation remain: heroin supply in Afghanistan, cocaine demand in Europe and cannabis supply and demand everywhere.

II. International cooperation to counter the world drug problem and follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

A. 2005 World Summit Outcome

8. At the 2005 World Summit, Heads of State and Government paid particular attention to issues addressed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in particular the negative effects on development, peace and security and human rights posed by transnational crime, including trafficking in human beings, the world drug problem and the illicit trade in small arms. In the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1), Member States resolved to strengthen the capacity of UNODC, within its existing mandates, to provide assistance to Member States upon request.

B. Follow-up by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

9. The Political Declaration adopted by General Assembly at its twentieth special session called upon all States to report biennially to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on their efforts to meet the goals and targets for 2003 and 2008 contained in the Declaration and requested the Commission to analyse those reports in order to enhance cooperative efforts to combat the world drug problem. At its fiftieth session, in 2007, the Commission will consider the fourth biennial report, 2004-2006, of the Executive Director of UNODC on the world drug problem, which will be the penultimate biennial evaluation of implementation by Member States of the goals and targets of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. The 10-year evaluation is scheduled for 2008. In 2000, the Commission agreed that one ministerial-level segment should be convened in 2003, with a second such segment at the conclusion of the period.

10. At its forty-ninth session, the Commission adopted two resolutions concerning the follow-up to the twentieth special session. In its resolution 49/1, entitled "Collection and use of complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session" (see E/2006/28, para. 3), the Commission recognized that data and expertise acquired by specialized national and regional bodies in monitoring the drug situation in their own geographical contexts can contribute to assessing the implementation of the goals set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. It also took note of the conclusions of the expert workshop on measuring progress in demand reduction held in Vienna from 31 October to 2 November 2005. That meeting had recognized that by 2008, the reporting of information needed to be enhanced and that the analytical process to make full use of the available global knowledge base should be refined. In that context, in its resolution 49/1, the Commission called upon UNODC to engage with national and regional experts from all geographical regions, as well as experts from relevant international organizations, on the collection and use of complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. The Commission requested the Executive Director of UNODC to

submit a report on the results of those efforts and provide Member States with additional input to make an objective, scientific, balanced and transparent global assessment of that implementation. The Commission further recommended that, following the global assessment, there should be a period of global reflection by Member States, based on the fundamental principles of the international drug control treaties and giving due regard to measures that have led to positive outcomes and aspects that require greater effort.

11. In its resolution 49/2, entitled "Recognizing the contribution of civil society in global efforts to address the drug problem in the context of reporting on the goals and targets for 2008 set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session", the Commission acknowledged the contribution made by civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in curbing drug abuse. It encouraged non-governmental organizations to reflect on their own achievements in addressing the drug problem and to report on their progress to their respective national government bodies, in the context of reporting on the goals and targets for 2008 set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session.

12. At the forty-ninth session of the Commission, the view was expressed that the review to be undertaken in 2008 of the implementation of the recommendations of the twentieth special session should go beyond an assessment of the progress made by Governments in reaching those goals and targets and should also seek to develop forward-looking recommendations, including in areas not covered by the resolutions of the twentieth special session.

C. Implementation and evaluation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

13. Member States have reported considerable progress towards meeting some areas of the goals set for 2008. Procedural, technical and financial problems still hamper the execution of requests for judicial cooperation. Some countries lack the capacity necessary to successfully combat money-laundering. The countries most affected by illicit crop cultivation need further capacity-building, the establishment of better monitoring and impact evaluation systems and long-term socio-economic development in order to sustain illicit crop eradication and alternative development efforts and prevent the re-emergence of illicit crops. Further efforts are required to strengthen precursor control and to combat the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants. In that regard, law enforcement action and cooperation needs to be strengthened, the operational capabilities of forensic laboratories needs to be improved, and partnerships with the chemical and pharmaceutical industries need to be further enhanced. Such action should be combined with efforts to prevent the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, especially experimentation with such stimulants among youth, and to treat abusers of such stimulants. In general, more must be done to develop systems for the assessment of the problem of illicit drug abuse and to provide comprehensive drug abuse prevention programmes and services for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers.

14. At the forty-ninth session of the Commission, in the context of current trends in drug abuse, several representatives stressed that synthetic drugs such as

amphetamine-type stimulants constituted an increasing threat and that more efforts should be focused on both the supply of, and the demand for, such drugs, including preventive measures specifically targeting young people. Another drug trend was the rise in the abuse of cannabis, which was erroneously perceived by young people as being less harmful than other drugs. Concern was also expressed at the emerging problem of the use of online pharmacies for smuggling drugs across national boundaries. International cooperation and the harmonization of national laws were necessary, because no country could tackle that new threat alone.

15. While Member States had adopted the biennial reports questionnaire as the primary instrument for the evaluation of progress, the overall response rate was relatively low: only 31 per cent of Member States had responded in all three reporting cycles. Given that low response rate, it is more important than ever that Member States be diligent in providing full responses through the biennial reports questionnaire.

D. Adherence to the international conventions on drugs and crime

16. In its resolution 60/178, the General Assembly urged all States to ratify or accede to, and States parties to implement, all provisions of the drug control treaties. The drug control conventions enjoy almost universal adherence, although countries continue to strive for the full implementation of all provisions. The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol[4] has 180 States parties, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[5] has 179 States parties, and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[6] has 180 States parties.

17. In resolution 60/178, the Assembly invited all States, as a matter of priority, to sign, ratify or accede to, and States parties to fully implement, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto[7] and the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[8] in order to counter comprehensively transnational criminal activities related to illicit drug trafficking. As at 24 July 2006, there were 147 signatories and 122 States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; 117 signatories and 101 States parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; 112 signatories and 92 States parties to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and 52 signatories and 53 States parties to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

18. An example of an integrated approach to implementing the international conventions on drugs and crime was the Round Table for Africa held in Abuja on 5 and 6 September 2005. The Round Table, which was hosted by the Government of Nigeria and organized by UNODC, endorsed the Programme of Action, 2006-2010, aimed at strengthening the rule of law and criminal justice systems in Africa. African Member States represented at the Round Table agreed that the Programme of Action provided the strategic direction and the operational orientation needed to guide government action starting in January 2006. The Round Table emphasized the importance of mainstreaming the issues of rule of law, crime and drugs in the development agenda of all countries and that the provision of resources, both from

African Governments and from development and donor partners, was instrumental to ensuring the Programme's success. In that regard, on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Economic and Social Council adopted on 27 July 2006 a resolution entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action, 2006-2010, on strengthening the rule of law and the criminal justice systems in Africa".

E. International cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities

19. Up to 90 per cent of the heroin found in Europe is produced in Afghanistan. As many as half a million people are believed to be involved in the trade in Afghan opiates, which is estimated to generate more than $40 billion per year, with devastating consequences for Afghanistan and transit States. At the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the representatives of several countries neighbouring Afghanistan emphasized that sustained international assistance was essential to efforts to deal with the drug problem in Afghanistan. It was noted that countries neighbouring Afghanistan were severely affected by illicit drug consignments from Afghanistan passing through their territory. The growing importance of the so-called northern route, used to smuggle opiates of Afghan origin though Central Asia into Europe, was emphasized. It was also stressed that assistance should be directed towards building capacity to improve border control and towards training. In that connection, the Commission, in paragraph 1 of its report (E/2006/28), recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution entitled "Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Drugs and Related Matters: a Vision for the Twenty-first Century". The Baku Accord, contained in the annex of that draft resolution, had been adopted by the States members of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at the fortieth session of the Subcommission, held in Baku from 12 to 16 September 2005.

20. The Paris Pact process is one of the most important mechanisms of the international community for tackling the challenge of Afghan heroin. At the Ministerial Conference on Drug Routes from Central Asia to Europe, held in Paris in May 2003, representatives agreed on concerted measures to limit the trafficking of Afghan opiates through Western and Central Asian and European countries. Following that conference, UNODC launched the Paris Pact initiative, leading to a series of operational expert round tables and policy-level meetings to enhance border control and anti-trafficking measures along the three major trafficking routes from Afghanistan to Europe: the southern route via Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and farther by sea and air; the western route via the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey and the Balkans; and the northern route via Central Asia and the Russian Federation. In that regard, focus was also placed on the vulnerable routes through the Arab Gulf States. In the framework of the Paris Pact initiative, UNODC developed the Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism (https://www.paris-pact.net), an Internet-based coordination mechanism for technical assistance projects in the area of counter-narcotics enforcement. The mechanism will be officially launched in Vienna in September 2006. The Second Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan was held in Moscow on

26-28 June 2006 and hosted by the Russian Federation as part of its Group of Eight presidency, in cooperation with UNODC. Ministers and heads of delegations from 55 countries affected by the traffic and abuse of opium and heroin produced in Afghanistan, as well as international organizations, attended. The Conference adopted recommendations and supported the Moscow Declaration (see A/61/208, annex) of the Group of Eight presidency. The Declaration reaffirmed the continuing validity of the main provisions of the first meeting in Paris and highlighted the importance of the international communities support for the Government of Afghanistan in implementing its National Drug Control Strategy. It was recommended that countries affected by the drug routes from Afghanistan should adopt an approach that struck a balance between prosecution of traffickers and prevention and treatment of drug addiction. Further, cooperation among law enforcement agencies concerned had to be improved with a view to identifying transnational criminal groups engaged in smuggling drugs and precursors both within and outside Afghanistan. With regard to the illicit traffic in precursor chemicals used for the production of heroin, both in the drug transit countries and in Afghanistan, it was decided that a systematic exchange of information on the diversion of precursors into illicit channels should be established. In the area of demand reduction, it was recommended that States should implement comprehensive prevention, treatment and rehabilitation measures, including the prevention of drug use and HIV. The Declaration noted that the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre had an important role to play in establishing standards in the region to improve the exchange of intelligence and cooperation among the law enforcement agencies of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, in the context of combating drug trafficking originating in Afghanistan.

F. Countering money-laundering

21. In its resolution 60/178, the General Assembly called upon States to consider including in their national drug control plans provisions for the establishment of national networks to enhance their capabilities to prevent, monitor, control and suppress serious offences connected with money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, to counter in general all acts of transnational organized crime and to supplement existing regional and international networks dealing with money-laundering. A substantial majority of Member States have agreed to meet the current norms and standards on anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism and, in most cases, to undergo external compliance assessments, to be conducted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)-style regional bodies, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Through its Global Programme against Money-Laundering, UNODC continues to assist States in developing mechanisms for combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. To that end, all States should ratify and implement the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism[9] and immediately implement the United Nations resolutions against terrorist financing. In that regard, States need to criminalize the financing of terrorism, freeze and confiscate terrorist assets, report suspicious transactions relating to terrorism, provide mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and extradition, regulate alternative remittance systems, require financial institutions to include accurate and meaningful originator information in

wire transfers, regulate non-profit organizations and implement measures to detect the physical cross-border transfer of currency and bearer negotiable instruments. The Global Programme against Money-Laundering provides assistance to Member States to comply with international standards in areas such as drafting legislation, training investigators, prosecutors and operators in the financial sector and establishing and strengthening financial intelligence units. In addition, the Global Programme against Money-Laundering continues to build on already strong relationships with the FATF-style regional bodies as a platform for appropriate technical assistance delivery.

G. Global trends in illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors

22. The UNODC *World Drug Report 2006* estimates that worldwide, 25 million people, roughly 0.5 per cent of the population age 15-64, abused amphetamine, methamphetamine or related substances, while some 9.7 million, roughly 0.2 per cent of the world population age 15-64, abused Ecstasy during the 2004-2005 period. UNODC has estimated that total global ATS production in 2004 was 480 tons, led by amphetamine and, in second place, Ecstasy.[10] The increasing number of countries that have dismantled clandestine ATS laboratories indicates that ATS production is spreading geographically but remains concentrated in North America, East and South-East Asia and Europe. Amphetamine production is predominant in Europe, and methamphetamine production is predominant in North America and East and South-East Asia. Ecstasy production is predominantly located in Europe and North America.

23. Amphetamine seizures steadily increased from 3.1 tons in 2000 to 6 tons in 2004. More than 90 per cent of seizures in the 2000-2004 period took place in Europe, notably Western and Central Europe.[11] Global interdiction of Ecstasy-type substances also steadily increased from 4.3 metric tons in 2003 to 8 tons in 2004. Seizures of Ecstasy rose in all subregions, but the greatest number of interdictions continued to be in Western and Central Europe, followed by North America and Oceania. An emerging trend is the increasing number of seizures that take place in Southern Africa. Seizures of ATS precursor chemicals reached record levels in 2004, reflecting the international cooperation under Project Prism initiated and coordinated by the International Narcotics Control Board and carried out by 126 national authorities, with the support of the International Narcotics Control Board, Interpol, the World Customs Organization, UNODC and the European Community. Global seizures of the main methamphetamine precursors, pseudoephedrine and ephedrine, totalled 176 tons and 15 tons respectively in 2004, and seizures of the two precursors have increased steadily in recent years.

24. Member States have adopted measures to raise awareness by launching national prevention and information campaigns and strategies to reduce the illicit demand for drugs, including ATS.[12] Some States have provided specialized treatment, aftercare services and interventions to reduce the adverse consequences of the abuse of ATS. Other States have formulated ATS action plans, including the identification of good practices and approaches for treatment, the training of physicians and health workers, research, awareness-raising at entertainment sites and discotheques and the introduction of drug abuse prevention campaigns in

prisons and in school curricula. Some States have introduced legislation that prohibits the promotion of illicit drugs on the Internet, establishing penalties for the misuse of the Internet. Many States have used information technology to disseminate information on the adverse health, social and economic effects of ATS in order to stop its use.

25. At its forty-ninth session, the Commission considered the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2005 on the implementation of article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.[1] It was noted that synthetic drugs, in particular ATS, posed a serious threat to the international community. The illicit manufacture of those substances had recently spread, and all regions currently experienced similar problems. The International Narcotics Control Board had encouraged Governments to establish a global system of estimates for certain key precursors and pharmaceutical preparations containing those substances, to be used as an important tool in preventing diversions. The Board had introduced a new electronic system of pre-export notifications, which was made available to all Governments free of charge, as an effective means of exchanging information on individual shipments in licit international trade. The timely exchange of such information had proved to be essential in identifying and preventing diversions. The Board had initiated an assessment of Operation Purple and Operation Topaz, resulting in the merger of the two operations into a single activity, Project Cohesion, which provided for the exchange of real-time information, backtracking investigations and regular evaluation of activities.

26. In its resolution 49/3, entitled "Strengthening systems for the control of precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of synthetic drugs", contained in paragraph 3 of its report (E/2006/28), the Commission on Narcotic Drugs called for Member States to continue their involvement in Project Prism and strengthen their law enforcement and legislative frameworks in order to control the transport and use of precursor chemicals for licit purposes.

H. Subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

27. The subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs reviewed trends in drug trafficking and regional and subregional cooperation and addressed priority drug law enforcement issues in their respective regions. Four meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were held in 2005: the fortieth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Baku from 12 to 16 September; the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Ouagadougou from 29 March to 1 April; the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santa Marta, Colombia, from 17 to 21 October; and the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Hanoi from 7 to 11 November. The recommendations made by the subsidiary bodies addressed issues such as countering opiate and cannabis trafficking, identifying drug traffickers through effective document control, law enforcement cooperation against the illicit manufacture and distribution of stimulants, training of law enforcement officials, the mobilization of community support for law enforcement anti-drug

strategies, effective controlled delivery operations and the strengthening of information exchange and operational cooperation at the inter-agency, cross-border and regional levels. In addition, the Subcommission adopted the Baku Accord (see paragraph 19 of the present report).

III. Demand reduction

28. At its forty-ninth session, the Commission considered the problems of collecting information on drug abuse and recognized the importance of developing drug information systems. It was noted with satisfaction that some regions had experienced positive results in the reduction of demand for certain drugs. But concern was expressed at the increase in the abuse of other drugs in other regions. It was stressed that it was important to consider the abuse of psychoactive substances that were not currently under international control. The importance of increasing public awareness of drug-related health risks and the risks posed by the abuse of psychoactive substances and its related consequences were also emphasized. Young people were identified as being among the most important groups to be targeted by prevention activities. In relation to treatment and rehabilitation, the value of early detection and intervention activities was stressed, as was the importance of strengthening national and international cooperation among services providing assistance to drug users and their families. The importance of improved information and data collection for drug assessment and the evaluation of demand reduction initiatives was also recognized.

29. In the context of implementing a comprehensive strategy to reduce demand for drugs, and in the light of the alarming situation with regard to HIV/AIDS, the importance of reducing the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse, such as HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases, was underlined. Examples were given of programmes aimed at providing drug abusers with information on the risks associated with drug abuse and on therapy, treatment, rehabilitation and other related services. The leadership role of UNODC on the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) was underlined in the context of comprehensive drug abuse prevention strategies. The importance of involving civil society, local communities and non-governmental organizations in the full range of drug demand reduction policy development, programme planning and implementation was stressed.

30. Concern was expressed at the situation in Afghanistan and the impact of illicit drug trafficking on transit and neighbouring countries affected by the increase in drug supply and problems related to drug abuse, such as HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases. Injecting heroin abuse was increasing, and a change in the pattern of drug abuse had been detected. The supply and demand aspects of the drug problem in those countries deserved both increased attention and coordinated action from the international community. It was stressed that all countries, in particular those countries with a high level of abuse of illicit drugs, needed to reinforce their action to reduce demand.

Drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation

31. In the area of drug abuse prevention, UNODC continued the dissemination of good practices through its Global Youth Network against Drug Abuse, which comprises more than 500 organizations from more than 50 countries working on the prevention of substance abuse among young people. Among the most important achievements were the creation of five regional networks to adapt good practices at the global level to situations at the regional level and disseminate those practices; the organization of three regional training workshops on substance abuse prevention for non-governmental organizations and media representatives from four Central Asian countries; the regular updating of an e-mail "listserv" and the Network's website (http://www.unodc.org/youthnet); and the mainstreaming of drug abuse prevention in ongoing HIV prevention programmes at the inter-agency level.

32. UNODC is implementing a locally sustained, evidence-based treatment and rehabilitation plan focusing on four areas: (a) establishing and coordinating an international network of resource centres for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers; (b) synthesizing and disseminating, through the UNODC Drug Abuse Treatment Toolkit series (http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treatment_toolkit.html), current knowledge on what works in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers; (c) building the capacity of treatment professionals at resource centres in order to increase their impact in their respective subregions; and (d) helping expand that knowledge by demonstrating, diversifying and enhancing treatment projects. An international network of 20 resource centres covering priority subregions have been selected. The plan builds on UNODC treatment and rehabilitation initiatives and networks in Africa, Central America, Central and South-East Asia and the Russian Federation and its neighbouring countries.

33. In the area of data collection and drug abuse epidemiology, UNODC has continued to provide technical assistance to Member States through the Global Assessment Programme on Drug Abuse. The global database on patterns and trends in drug abuse has been improved to allow more accurate analysis of drug abuse trends. The activities and technical assistance provided to Member States through the Global Assessment Programme have contributed to the collection, analysis and reporting of drug abuse data at the national and regional levels.

34. UNODC is the convening agency of the inter-agency working group on HIV/AIDS prevention and care among injecting drug users and in prison settings, which meets twice a year. UNODC also supports the United Nations Reference Group on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Among Injecting Drug Users in Developing and Transitional Countries. Within the thematic area of HIV/AIDS related to drug abuse, prison settings and trafficking in human beings, UNODC is undertaking projects in cooperation and coordination with the World Health Organization and UNAIDS in Africa and the Middle East and is the chair of the United Nations Theme Group on HIV/AIDS in the Russian Federation.

IV. International cooperation in illicit crop eradication and alternative development

35. At its forty-ninth session, the Commission held a thematic debate on the topic of alternative development as an important drug control strategy and establishing alternative development as a cross-cutting issue. The thematic debate focused on the various conceptual and programmatic aspects of alternative development. The problems and challenges facing alternative development in different drug crop cultivation areas and the way to evaluate the impact of alternative development programmes were also addressed. All speakers expressed the view that alternative development was a fundamental component of the counter-narcotics strategy to combat the world drug problem. Most agreed that alternative development should follow an integrated approach that combined a mixture of comprehensive activities including demand reduction, health and education and sustainable development efforts with complementary eradication and law enforcement activities. Concern was expressed at the decreased funding available to undertake alternative development activities on a global scale and at the impact that situation could have on existing programmes and on broadening the coverage of alternative development programmes. The majority of speakers referred to the need to evaluate the impact of alternative development activities using social, economic and human development indicators rather than by reference to statistics on illicit crop reduction alone. The importance of strengthening and supporting the UNODC alternative development programme was stressed.

36. The cultivation of illicit crops is decreasing in key areas such as Afghanistan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar, as well as in the Andean subregion. That decline in cultivation is welcome, but the rapid progress in illicit crop reduction witnessed in the past decade could be undone if the problem of poverty among farmers is not addressed. UNODC illicit crop monitoring surveys provide Governments and the donor community with essential data for the planning and design of alternative livelihoods and drug law enforcement assistance programmes. In mid-December 2005, UNODC hosted an expert group meeting to review the thematic evaluation of alternative development and identify possible options for future programme activities.

37. The UNODC in its survey of coca crops in the Andean subregion,[14] noted an overall stabilization of the downward trend in coca bush cultivation in the subregion since 2000, with some decrease in Colombia and slight increases in both Bolivia and Peru. The situation continues to require vigilance and further analysis of yields and other parameters. UNODC is working to increase the participation of multinational corporations in product development and the marketing of products produced by alternative development projects.

V. Action by the United Nations system

A. Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

38. UNODC is working to make the world safer from drugs, crime and terrorism and to promote a global alliance against criminality.[15] The Office supports the

international community in meeting those threats by facilitating policymaking on drugs, crime and terrorism issues and by assisting States in ratifying and implementing the related conventions. By building knowledge and awareness on the world's drug and crime problems, UNODC can suggest strategic directions and mobilize resources to address those problems. The Office aims to deliver knowledge-based expertise to strengthen Member States' capacity to prevent and reduce drugs and crime. Technical assistance is of crucial importance in reaching those goals.

39. In the United Nations Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2), Member States resolved to intensify efforts to fight transnational crime in all its dimensions, to redouble the efforts to implement the commitment to counter the world drug problem and to take concerted action against international terrorism. The three pillars of the UNODC work programme are research and analytical work to increase knowledge and understanding of drugs and crime issues and expand the evidence base for policy and operational decisions; normative work to assist States in the ratification and implementation of the international treaties, the development of domestic legislation on drugs, crime and terrorism and the provision of secretariat and substantive services to the treaty-based and governing bodies; and field-based technical cooperation projects to enhance the capacity of Member States to counteract illicit drugs, crime and terrorism.

40. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 48/14,[16] UNODC is developing an overarching strategy in full consultation with Member States. A progress report was provided to the Commission at its forty-ninth session, including results-based management and budgeting, project cycle management and evaluation. Those ongoing efforts should be seen in the context of the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the report of the Secretary-General of 7 March 2006 on Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide (A/60/692 and Corr. 1).

41. UNODC maintains close cooperation with a variety of partners: the group of 21 major donors, the group of emerging and national donors, United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and private and corporate foundations. For the biennium 2004-2005, the group of major donors provided about 80 per cent of all voluntary contributions, while emerging and national donors contributed about 16 per cent. During 2005, a number of new partnerships were developed or strengthened, including with the private sector, that may lead to a broadening of the UNODC resource base. Aside from regular meetings with the group of major donors, UNODC organized a first meeting of emerging and national donors in November 2005.

B. Strengthening cooperation with Member States and relevant agencies and organizations

42. One of the strategic objectives of UNODC is to broaden its resource base by enhancing its policy dialogue with financial stakeholders and expanding its partnership network. Given the changing profile of development assistance, with donors putting more emphasis on policy-based assistance such as direct budget support and moving away from the funding of individual projects, UNODC is seeking to enhance its strategic partnerships to be more consistent with a more

policy-driven funding approach. The engagement of UNODC with external partners, including local governments, needs to be based on a comprehensive understanding of how their policies, priorities, budgets and operating procedures are shaped and how they coincide with the strategic priorities of UNODC. Strategic interests, a search for synergy and long-term commitment are key ingredients for the successful mainstreaming of the mandate of UNODC. In addition, prospective partners need to be carefully selected, taking into account their strategic policy and development finance impact, their interest in supporting the United Nations system and their need for specialized know-how available at UNODC.

43. With a view to reinforcing its partnership with its major donors, UNODC established a mechanism for regular consultations. Throughout 2005, in addition to the regular, semi-annual meetings, 11 informal major donor meetings were organized to discuss policy, operational, financial and management issues. For the first time, a meeting with emerging and national donors took place. Those meetings were complemented by many UNODC visits to donor capitals and bilateral donor missions to UNODC headquarters. During 2005, UNODC participation in inter-agency partnerships with bodies such as UNAIDS, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security were also strengthened. The memorandum of understanding signed between UNODC and UNIDO in March 2005 has resulted in joint projects in the areas of trafficking and the environmentally safe disposal of seized narcotics and chemicals, anti-corruption measures and alternative livelihoods.

44. New relations were forged with international financial institutions. A letter of intent for cooperation was signed with the Asian Development Bank. A funding agreement on a regional HIV/AIDS project in Central Asia was signed with the Fund for International Development of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Regular consultations were held with the World Bank on regional and thematic topics such as Afghanistan, anti-money-laundering, anti-corruption and governance. Consultations were also held with the European Investment Bank.

45. In 2005, UNODC and the European Commission exchanged letters on coordination, cooperation and partnership. To ensure a continued policy and operational dialogue, regular meetings of senior officials of the European Commission and UNODC are held. One area identified for potential future cooperation is the African Programme of Action, 2006–2010, referred to in paragraph 18 of the present report.

46. Over the past year, UNODC has developed a good relationship with the European Foundation Centre and its membership. UNODC plans to organize, in October 2006, the first Global Partnership Forum with private and corporate foundations. Forming partnerships with private foundations and the private sector in general will help to develop and implement codes of conduct that comply with United Nations conventions. Such partnerships will enable UNODC to share resources and expertise and to promote the key issues at the centre of the international policy debate.

C. Broadening the donor base of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and increasing voluntary contributions

47. The financial resource management of UNODC has focused on improving financial reporting, cost-saving measures, enhancing transparency and ensuring compliance. The issuance of formal management instructions aimed at systematizing, codifying and harmonizing management practices throughout UNODC continued. Those management instructions assist in monitoring compliance with the principal recommendations of the audit teams of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. While the various cost-saving and efficiency measures detailed in the consolidated budget of UNODC for the biennium 2006-2007 (E/CN.7/2005/12 and Add.1) have been implemented, there has still been a shortfall in resources for the general purpose funds of UNODC.

48. External voluntary funding for UNODC-initiated technical assistance for both drugs and crime increased rapidly in 2005. Funding for the drugs programme remained more or less stable: $76.7 million, compared with $78.7 million in 2004. But more than 80 per cent of those external voluntary resources are earmarked for interventions in specific countries and areas. The amount of general purpose funding, $15.5 million, was almost the same as in 2004. The relatively high level of earmarked funding does not give the Office flexibility to set priorities. More general purpose funding is needed to enable the Office to better plan and implement long-term activities compatible with its mandate and consistent with the nature of its core functions.

49. At its forty-ninth session, the Commission's attention was drawn to the precarious financial state of the general purpose funds of the drug programme of UNODC. Average annual general purpose contributions to the drug programme of UNODC were $21 million in the period 1992-1998, compared with $16 million in the period 1999-2005 and a projected $11.5 million for 2006. That has left a shortfall of funds for 2006 and 2007. While the increase in the consolidated budget of UNODC for the biennium 2006-2007, compared with the previous biennium, was welcome, the decrease in general purpose funds and the zero growth in the allocation to UNODC from the regular budget of the United Nations for that period resulted in a deficit in the core budget for 2006. An important element in the prospects of general purpose funding is the ongoing UNODC strategy review. Enhanced clarity of strategic objectives and a stronger business focus on agreed core mandates, combined with a strategic partnering approach, as outlined above, should strengthen long-term institutional support for UNODC.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

50. It is recommended that the General Assembly consider recommending that the following measures be taken to make further progress in addressing the world drug problem:

(a) Measures against drugs and crime should be included as essential components in strategies to achieve sustained economic development;

(b) Member States, relevant intergovernmental and bilateral international financial institutions and development organizations should be invited to continue to

mainstream drug and crime concerns into their programmes and projects and to coordinate with UNODC to utilize the expertise available at UNODC;

(c) In recognition of the central role of the international drug control conventions, States that have not yet done so should become parties to and fully implement the drug control conventions, as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism;

(d) Member States, the international community, non-governmental organizations and civil society should be urged to evaluate progress made since 1998 towards meeting, in their respective areas of concern, the goals and targets set at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly;

(e) States should be urged to continue and reinforce their commitment to implementing the goals of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and to comply fully and in a timely manner with their reporting obligations;

(f) Taking into account the funding situation of UNODC and its array of mandates, Member States should be encouraged to make significant contributions, including general purpose contributions, to the fund of the UNODC drug control programme.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Special Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S-20/14), sect. III, resolution S-20/2, annex.

[2] Resolution 54/132, annex.

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XI.10.

[4] United Nations *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[5] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[6] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

[7] Resolution 55/25, annexes I-III, and resolution 55/255, annex.

[8] Resolution 58/4, annex.

[9] Resolution 54/109, annex.

[10] The production of amphetamine-type stimulants can be estimated only indirectly. The estimates cited here are based on the methodology outlined in the survey of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled *Ecstasy and Amphetamines: Global Survey 2003* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.XI.15).

[11] This apparent geographical concentration should be treated with caution, because some Member States report amphetamine seizures under the broader category of amphetamine-type stimulants.

[12] See the report of the Executive Director on the world drug problem: Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors (E/CN.7/2005/2/Add.4).

[13] *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2005 on the*

Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XI.5).

[14] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Coca Cultivation in the Andean Region: a Survey of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru* (June 2005).

[15] A comprehensive report on the activities of UNODC may be found in the report of the Executive Director on development, security and justice for all: towards a safer world (E/CN.7/2006/5-E/CN.15/2006/2).

[16] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 8* (E/2005/28/Rev.1), part two, chapter I, resolution 48/14.

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Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 59/36 of 2 December 2004. Twenty-five Member States and the International Committee of the Red Cross transmitted to the Secretary-General the information requested by the Assembly in resolution 59/36. A list of States parties to the Additional Protocols of 1977 is contained in the annex.

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I. Introduction

1. On 2 December 2004, the General Assembly adopted resolution 59/36, entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts". In paragraph 11 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-first session a report on the status of the Additional Protocols of 1977 and on measures taken to strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law, inter alia, with respect to its dissemination and full implementation at the national level, based on information received from Member States and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

2. Pursuant to that request, the Secretary-General, by notes verbales dated 22 April 2005 and 15 February 2006 and letters dated 14 April 2005 and 9 February 2006 invited, respectively, Member States and ICRC to transmit to him by 30 June 2006 the information requested in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 59/36 for inclusion in the report.

3. Replies have been received from Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as well as from ICRC. Extracts of the replies are contained in sections II and III of the present report. The full texts of the replies are available for review in the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat.

4. The list of all States that are parties to the Protocols[1] Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949,[2] as at 20 July 2006, is contained in the annex to the present report.

II. Information received from Member States

Austria

[Original: English]
[30 June and 6 July 2006]

Ratification/implementation of the Explosive Remnants of War Protocol

1. Austria finalized preparations for the parliamentary ratification of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (Protocol V), 2003, in 2005. However, since the Protocol has only recently become available in all authentic languages, its ratification procedure will commence during the summer of 2006.

[1] United Nations *Treaty Series*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.
[2] Ibid., vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

Dissemination/training of European Union forces and third-country forces in international humanitarian law

2. International humanitarian law forms an integral part of the general training of troops, non-commissioned officers and officers of the Austrian army. Furthermore, in the course of preparatory training for international missions, aspects of international humanitarian law specific to the particular region of deployment are regularly included.

Support for the International Criminal Court

3. In order to support ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in accordance with the European Union (EU) common position and action plan, Austria promotes the International Criminal Court in both bilateral and EU dialogues. It encourages cooperation of States with the Court, particularly in situations where the Court has begun investigations and addresses the issue of bilateral immunity agreements under article 98, paragraph 2, of the Rome Statute. Furthermore, Austria signed an agreement on the enforcement of sentences with the International Criminal Court, which will enter into force on 26 November 2006.

Public dissemination of international humanitarian law among youth

4. The Austrian Youth Red Cross, together with its sister organizations in Germany, Switzerland and Luxembourg, published an electronic version of the ICRC manual "Exploring humanitarian law" in German in 2004 and a hard copy in 2005. The manual is used in schools for the development and organization of teacher training seminars. Furthermore, the Law School of the University of Vienna offers a course on armed conflict and military intervention in addition to the humanitarian law taught within the general curriculum of public international law. The Salzburg Law School offers courses on international criminal law, humanitarian law and human rights law. In addition, an annual two-week summer course, organized in cooperation with the University of Salzburg, gathers academics and practitioners in the field of international criminal law and provides a think tank for contemporary questions of international humanitarian law in general and the International Criminal Court in particular.

5. In May 2006, ICRC and the Austrian Red Cross, under the auspices of the Austrian EU Presidency, organized the European Education Leadership Conference on Exploring Humanitarian Law, aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of the concepts and methodologies of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme.

Efforts of the Austrian Red Cross Society for extending capacities for the search of missing persons

6. The Austrian National Red Cross Society has improved the accessibility of the search service to migrants from conflict zones living in Austria. In 2004-2005, the Austrian Red Cross carried out a project on solving missing person cases from the Balkan wars, involving migrants/refugees from the region living in Austria who assisted with data collection. It is planned to extend this service to two more Austrian cities by the end of 2006.

Bulgaria

[Original: English]
[20 June 2006]

1. In 2005, the Bulgarian Red Cross carried out a wide range of activities to harness public resources for humanitarian purposes and sought to expand the variety of its methods of popularizing international humanitarian law standards and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross movement.

2. The Bulgarian Red Cross continued to assist the supreme command of the Bulgarian Armed Forces in disseminating international humanitarian law, partly by conducting study sessions during training courses for senior officers and organizing specialized exhibitions highlighting the challenges facing international humanitarian law in the conditions of contemporary armed conflict. A major result of the learning and awareness-raising activities included the approval of humanitarian law study programmes for various categories of service persons, thus better integrating this branch of study in the regulations and training practices of the Armed Forces. The Bulgarian Red Cross also provided the Bulgarian military contingents abroad with material describing measures for the application of humanitarian law regulations and the respective obligations of armed occupation forces, as well as the mandate of ICRC in low-intensity conflicts.

3. With the support of ICRC and with self-sustained undertakings, the Bulgarian Red Cross has organized the production and distribution of a multitude of informational materials, simultaneously striving to solidify its network of staff and volunteering disseminators throughout the country and the activities of its International Humanitarian Law Youth Club. The Bulgarian Red Cross has also organized or conducted a series of courses and seminars on international humanitarian law, human rights law and the Red Cross movement's principles, history and activities for a variety of audiences including military officers, law enforcement officials, parliamentarians, civil servants, Red Cross personnel and volunteers, media representatives and university and secondary school students.

4. The incorporation and integration of international humanitarian law into the curricula for military instruction and in military manuals has been a fundamental aim in the plan of action of the Bulgarian Red Cross in the field of dissemination.

5. The latest developments in dissemination activities have focused on organizing international humanitarian law courses and workshops for university students and volunteers from secondary schools, with the aim of consolidating the dissemination capacity of the National Red Cross Society and meeting the needs of the young audience in acquiring enhanced knowledge of international humanitarian law and the Red Cross principles, as well as promoting observance of such values among these target groups.

6. The Bulgarian Red Cross has also systematically assisted international organizations and the Government of Bulgaria in their efforts to further improve existing international humanitarian law instruments, trying to establish national mechanisms for their application and organizing media campaigns relating to appeals by ICRC and to the numerous worldwide breaches of the norms of humanity.

Canada

[Original: English and French]
[30 June 2006]

The Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols

1. Canada signed the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Additional Protocol III), 2005, on 19 June 2006 and expects to embark on the process of ratification later this year. Furthermore, in 2005, Canada acceded to the First (1954) and Second (1999) Protocols to the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

Canadian efforts to protect civilians[1]

2. Canada has a longstanding and vocal commitment to the legal and physical protection of civilians, which has consistently featured as a central component of its foreign policy. Since 2000, efforts have focused on promoting respect for international humanitarian law, establishing and strengthening international norms, supporting specific protection activities in the field and building political will and capacity among States, United Nations entities, regional networks and field-based non-governmental organizations.

3. Beyond its efforts in the Security Council in this area, Canada has provided diplomatic, financial and human resources in support of United Nations, non-governmental, think tank and African regional efforts to help develop policies and tools related to civilian protection. These include specific initiatives to address impunity, prevent sexual exploitation of crisis-affected populations, promote the safety of aid workers and encourage humanitarian access. Canada has also, in various forums, initiated discussions on the appropriate use of force to provide physical security to populations at risk, created guidelines to reduce the humanitarian impact of United Nations sanctions, and supported leading advocacy work in support of internally displaced persons and war-affected children.

4. Since 2004, initiatives supported by Canada have sought to build on earlier efforts, focusing on the development of practical non-coercive and coercive tools for use in the field, increased advocacy and diplomatic initiatives that ensure long-term political engagement, norm development, and operational implementation of the protection-of-civilians agenda over time. The emphasis is placed on creating broader participation and support for the protection-of-civilians agenda among States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Canadian efforts to protect war-affected children

5. The protection of children in situations of armed conflict is a key component of Canada's human security agenda and international assistance programming. Between 2000 and 2005, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) quintupled its investments in child protection through an action plan on child protection, including war-affected children, as one of two areas of strategic focus.

[1] For further information, see: www.humansecurity.gc.ca/civilians_en.asp and www.acdi-cida.gc.ca

CIDA has developed a critical mass of cutting-edge programming, analysis and resources, including child participation pilot projects and Child Protection Research Fund projects, five of which concern war-affected children and in particular the role of girls in fighting forces. A conference to disseminate the results of these studies was held at the University of Ottawa from 12 to 14 June 2006.[4]

Canadian activities related to women affected by armed conflict

6. Canada takes a strong leadership role at the international level on the issue of the inclusion of women in all stages and aspects of peacebuilding, policy formation and implementation and works with other international actors to actively integrate a gender-sensitive approach to peacebuilding and human security efforts and to ensure that women and men have equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from peacebuilding processes. Similarly, Canada has been actively promoting States' obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish all acts of violence against women and girls, including in situations related to armed conflict. Domestically, Canada has initiated the process to develop a national action plan to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security.

International humanitarian law and the Canadian Forces

7. The Canadian Forces has several publications[5] that serve as references on training aids for international humanitarian law and provide various forms of training to its personnel in the law of armed conflict. The training includes courses offered as part of basic recruit training, academic courses, self-study programmes mandatory for officers and mission-specific courses provided to every member prior to deployment to an international operation. Furthermore, commanding officers are expected to be conversant with the contents of the international humanitarian law manual *The Law of Armed Conflict at the Operational and Tactical Levels* and to ensure that the law of armed conflict is integrated into all aspects of operations.

8. Legal officers serving in the Office of the Judge Advocate General provide legal advice to all levels of the chain of command involved in the planning and conduct of military operations.

Croatia

[Original: English]
[3 August 2006]

1. Croatia ratified Protocol V (Explosive Remnants of War) to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Second (1999) Protocol to the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, in February 2005 and May 2006, respectively. In May 2006, it signed Additional Protocol III to the Geneva Conventions and the ratification procedure will start shortly.

2. Croatia organized the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, 1997, in Zagreb from 28 November to 2 December

[4] For an overview of the research results, see: www.uottawa.ca/childprotection/.

[5] The publications can be accessed at www.forces.gc.ca/jag/publications/default_e.asp?VIEW_BY=title/.

2005 for the purpose of making a first appraisal of the progress in implementing the Nairobi Action Plan, focusing on four major goals: global acceptance of the all-inclusive anti-personnel mine ban; destruction of existing stocks; mine clearance; and helping victims. The Zagreb Progress Report takes stock of what has been achieved and what remains to be done and constitutes a guideline for the next year.

3. Violations of international humanitarian law are incriminated in the Croatian Penal Code. By amendments to the Penal Code which entered into force in October 2004, Croatian criminal legislation has also been harmonized with international conventions, in particular in the field of international humanitarian law. The new criminal offence "crime against humanity" has been taken from article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and stipulated in the Penal Code, the existing criminal offence "war crime" has been harmonized with its article 8, and the criminal offence "responsibility of commanders", taken from article 28, has been incorporated in the Penal Code. The intention was to further strengthen the national answer to the principle of complementarity.

Cyprus

[Original: English]
[27 June 2006]

1. Cyprus strives to ensure the widest possible dissemination and implementation of the Additional Protocols of 1977, including through their translation into Greek and publication in the Official Gazette. Furthermore, the Cyprus Red Cross Society has released a number of informative booklets in Greek and English.

2. In order to ensure proper implementation of international humanitarian law, the Cyprus National Guard (Cyprus armed forces) has distributed an educational booklet explaining the provisions of the law of armed conflict to all combat units. In addition, training courses are being held each year in every combat unit in accordance with the guidelines of the annual training programme of the National Guard General Staff. To ensure dissemination of the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 1977 and understanding of the basic rules of behaviour in armed conflicts, a special section to this effect is included in the "soldier's handbook". Finally, National Guard officers who have undergone specialized training in the law of armed conflict have been assigned in every combat formation to monitor the provisions of the Conventions and Additional Protocols and to advise their commanders in combat.

3. As a member State of the European Union, Cyprus applies the EU guidelines on promoting compliance with international humanitarian law and participates in the working group on this topic.

Czech Republic

[Original: English]
[31 May 2006]

1. The Czech Republic signed the Additional Protocol III on 12 April 2006, which will be submitted for approval to the Parliament, together with the Second Protocol (1999) to the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

Implementation of international humanitarian law

2. The key legal and policy documents of the Czech Republic contain several explicit references or safeguards concerning implementation of international humanitarian law. Furthermore, in order to enhance its implementation and promotion, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs established, on an informal basis, the inter-ministerial commission on international humanitarian law, which may be formalized in the future.

Dissemination of international humanitarian law

3. The Czech Republic is currently transforming the overall system of military training in view of the fact there are fully professional armed forces now. International humanitarian law has been included in concrete training programmes that have been issued so far and will be included in future ones. As a result, every military professional gets acquainted with international humanitarian law from the beginning of his or her career, during regular annual training, whenever he or she wants to be promoted and before any deployment. In addition, the Defence University in Vyškov provides appropriate education, including mandatory courses on international humanitarian law, to all prospective commanders.

4. Compliance with international humanitarian law within the military is also promoted by legal advisers who provide necessary legal advice to their commander and participate in the process of developing rules of engagement for particular operations. A special handbook on operational law, in which international humanitarian law plays a central role, will be issued for them in 2007.

5. Outside the military, international humanitarian law constitutes an integral part of the curriculum at all law schools and is taught at the Technical University School of Security Engineering in Ostrava and at the Police Academy in Prague.

Denmark

[Original: English]
[14 July 2005]

1. Denmark's accession to Protocol V regarding explosive remnants of war was concluded on 28 June 2005. Furthermore, the Danish Government has adopted a unilateral moratorium with regard to cluster munitions that are not equipped with self-destruction, self-neutralization or self-deactivation mechanisms that have a failure rate of less than 1 per cent.

2. All members of the Danish Armed Forces are trained in the application of international humanitarian law principles as an integral part of every type of training activity within the Armed Forces and the standards to be met are formalized at all levels. The application of international humanitarian law principles is a particular focal point during the decision-making process and any training that leads to a deployment abroad, such as peacekeeping missions.

3. In relation to punishment for war crimes, the Danish Military Penal Code, paragraph 25, describes the possibility for military personnel to be punished if, during an armed conflict, they act in defiance of international conventions ratified by Denmark or in defiance of international customary law.

4. The Danish Red Cross Committee undertakes different dissemination activities, including the publication last year of a compilation of humanitarian law instruments, which has been widely distributed.

Georgia

[Original: English]
[31 May 2006]

Georgia is a party to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the two Additional Protocols of 1977. Furthermore, Georgia is currently undertaking intra-State procedures with regard to Additional Protocol III.

Hungary

[Original: English]
[11 July 2006]

1. The new Service Regulations, effective since 2006, require soldiers to abide by humanitarian rules of warfare and respect victims of war and non-combatants. The annex to the Regulations gives a detailed description of these obligations, based mainly on provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 1977, with special regard to the protection of civilians. Within the central organizations and major units, special legal advisers assist in setting up mechanisms to apply these rules and in explaining them to the military personnel.

2. In 2000, the national advisory committee for the dissemination and implementation of international humanitarian law was created. The committee is a forum to gather constructive ideas on the more efficient dissemination of international humanitarian law and to channel them to the competent authorities. It also organizes workshops and seminars for the public on current issues of international humanitarian law.

3. Dissemination of international humanitarian law has been at the forefront in a number of institutions and is being studied at the University of National Defence, which will soon publish a manual on the topic. In the Hungarian Defence Forces, international humanitarian law is taught as a part of basic and intermediate training. Special attention is given to international humanitarian law studies in the training of those contingents which are to be deployed in peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations. Furthermore, departments of the Ministry of Defence maintain continuous cooperation with the ICRC regional delegation in Budapest.

Iceland

[Original: English]
[11 July 2006]

1. Iceland has no national armed forces and thus no military criminal code. However, in accordance with its international obligations, Iceland strives to ensure that it has the appropriate means to investigate, try and enforce war crimes in its domestic system. Icelandic law does not contain provisions on war crimes, war against humanity or genocide. These crimes are therefore not considered *delictum*

sui generis. However, to some extent these crimes fulfil the elements of relevant provisions of the penal code, e.g., homicide, bodily injury and sexual offences. The penal code has specific provisions criminalizing the use of nuclear substances and noxious gases. Certain war crimes could also be punishable by the application of Act No. 17/2000 relating to the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, and Act No. 26/2001 relating to the implementation of the Mine Ban Convention.

2. In 2004, the Icelandic Red Cross and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs published the booklet "Geneva Conventions" containing the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the two Additional Protocols of 1977, in Icelandic translation.[6]

Japan

[Original: English]
[6 July 2006]

1. In June 2003, Japan established a law regarding the response to armed attacks, ensuring the appropriate implementation of international humanitarian law. In accordance with that law, Japan enacted on 14 June 2004 a law concerning the measures for the protection of the people in the event of armed attacks, a law concerning the treatment of prisoners in the event of armed attacks and a law concerning the punishments for serious violations of international humanitarian law.

2. In addition, in order to promote understanding of the Additional Protocols of 1977, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sponsored, in cooperation with the Japanese Red Cross Society, a symposium on international humanitarian law in March 2005 and the international law moot court competition "Asia Cup 2005" on international human rights and humanitarian law in August 2005.

Kenya

[Original: English]
[24 April 2006]

1. In 2001, the National Committee on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law was established with the following terms of reference: (a) to coordinate and monitor implementation of international humanitarian law in Kenya; (b) to advise the Government on international humanitarian law instruments that need to be ratified; (c) to review existing legislation and recommend necessary amendments; (d) to recommend new legislation where applicable; (e) to advise and assist on reporting obligations; (f) to advise on administrative measures required; (g) to coordinate, monitor and evaluate dissemination; and (h) to undertake or commission research on developments in international humanitarian law and make appropriate recommendations to the Government.

2. The National Committee engages in training activities, both for its own members and for other institutions, such as the police and prisons departments, the military, public administrators and universities, and conducts dissemination activities. Furthermore, the National Committee has established two subcommittees

[6] Also available at www.redcross.is/book/.

to specifically deal with the tasks relating to dissemination and implementing legislation.

3. The Implementing Legislation Subcommittee assisted the relevant ministries and departments in the process of ratification and domestication in relation to several instruments relating to international humanitarian law, including the Additional Protocols of 1977. It is also working with the University of Nairobi in the preparation of a training manual that will enable the effective dissemination of international humanitarian law.

Latvia

[Original: English]
[30 June 2006]

1. Latvia has signed Additional Protocol III and the draft law is about to be passed by Saeima (the Parliament of the Republic of Latvia).

2. The Latvian National Armed Forces are undertaking activities which ensure thorough compliance with the Additional Protocols. Training and Doctrine is the core unit within the Armed Forces responsible for the practical implementation of legal provisions. The training programmes of units subordinated to Training and Doctrine offer instruction in the application of the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols, which conveys both theoretical knowledge and practical skills relating to the law of armed conflict and the Additional Protocols. Training programmes on the law of armed conflict also constitute a part of permission training, i.e., training before deployment in international operations. Furthermore, the Armed Forces have published a number of studies regarding humanitarian law.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[30 May 2006]

Lebanon honours all international conventions relating to this topic. Lebanese legislation includes measures necessary for the protection of victims of armed conflicts and the punishment of those responsible for war crimes. International humanitarian law has been integrated into the training curricula of all military academies at all levels. In addition, annual courses in this area have been inaugurated for officers, and lectures and seminars are held for various military units.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

[Original: Arabic]
[10 May 2006]

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has formed the National Committee for International Humanitarian Law, chaired by the Secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice (Minister of Justice). The Committee's terms of reference are the following: (a) establishing executive strategies, plans and programmes in respect of the application of international humanitarian law, in conjunction with relevant authorities; (b) studying conventions on international humanitarian law, drafting

legislative proposals necessary to harmonize national legislation with the provisions of such conventions and undertaking scientific research and studies aimed at the development of international humanitarian law; (c) preparing and implementing training plans and programmes to raise awareness of international humanitarian law; (d) proposing agreements to be concluded with counterpart regional and international bodies for cooperation and exchange of experience, visits and information on the application of international humanitarian law; (e) holding national, regional and international seminars and conferences and organizing study groups to consider international humanitarian law and ways of applying the provisions thereof; (f) coordinating between national authorities concerned with the practical dissemination of the provisions of international humanitarian law; (g) monitoring, documenting and proposing ways of dealing with violations of the provisions of international humanitarian law; (h) taking measures to ensure the strengthened application of international humanitarian law and dissemination of its culture; and (i) preparing data and statistics relating to the activity of the Committee and other entities in applying the provisions of international humanitarian law.

Lithuania

[Original: English]
[16 June 2006]

National Commission on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law

1. The Ministry of National Defence is responsible for the coordination of the implementation of international humanitarian law within Lithuania. In 2001, the Minister of National Defence established the National Commission on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law, whose principal task is to provide assistance in performing the said functions of the Ministry. The objectives of the Commission are (a) to analyse the situation regarding the implementation of international humanitarian law in Lithuania, including participation in international agreements; (b) to submit proposals on the implementation of international humanitarian law; (c) to disseminate information on international humanitarian law within the militaries and the public; and (d) to initiate or provide assistance in arranging seminars or conferences on issues regarding the implementation of international humanitarian law.

Methods and means of warfare

2. Lithuania is in the last stages of the development of a national mine action strategy which, inter alia, emphasizes respect for international humanitarian law. In addition, rules of engagement are under consideration within the Ministry of National Defence.

Measures to protect the distinctive emblems

3. In 2000, the Law on Lithuania Red Cross Society, Red Cross and Red Crescent Emblems and Title was adopted, which protects both signs and regulates the protective and indicative use of the distinctive emblems.

Protection of cultural objects

4. In 2005, the Commander of the Armed Forces appointed a senior executive officer for cultural property protection within his secretariat.

Legal advisers in the armed forces

5. In 2006, the Minister of National Defence approved the National Concept of Legal Advisers in Armed Forces.

Dissemination

6. International humanitarian law is included in education programmes for all levels of military personnel and in the curricula of training institutions, police, secondary schools, etc. Also, international humanitarian law is an optional course in the law faculties of the leading universities and the Institute of International Relations and Political Science. The National Commission is working on a Lithuanian textbook containing international humanitarian law-related treaties, national laws, case law and the ICRC statutes.

Repression of breaches of international humanitarian law

7. The Lithuanian criminal code, the administrative offences code and the statute on military discipline include provisions which impose, respectively, criminal, administrative or disciplinary liability for breaches of the rules of international humanitarian law.

Luxembourg

[Original: French]
[1 June 2006]

The acts of 12 April 1989 and of 25 April 2003 ratifying, respectively, the Additional Protocols of 1977 and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, and the texts of these Protocols are published in *Mémorial A*, a compilation of laws containing all the legislative acts and regulations of Luxembourg.[7]

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[29 June 2006]

1. Various provisions of the federal penal code, the military justice code and the federal firearms act and its implementing regulations characterize acts constituting violations of international humanitarian law. Mexico is currently in the process of considering and updating its criminal legislation to bring it into line with humanitarian standards, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

2. In accordance with article 36 of Additional Protocol I, the Mexican armed forces are conducting a review of the weapons procurement processes that involve

[7] Also accessible at www.legilux.public.lu.

physical evidence and performance tests through institutional structures designed for that purpose.

3. A bill on the use and protection of the name and emblem of the Red Cross is currently before the Chamber of Deputies, which includes provisions that are in line with Additional Protocol III. Furthermore, in order to strengthen provisions protecting cultural property in the event of armed conflict and other natural-disaster situations, the Senate is currently considering amendments and additions to the federal act on archaeological, artistic and historic monuments and sites.

4. The Armed Forces of Mexico include teaching and training in international humanitarian law in their military doctrine and manuals and in ongoing training activities. Similarly, there are also ongoing academic training initiatives at the higher education level aimed at integrating and strengthening this subject.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[3 May 2006]

The State of Qatar propagates the provisions of the Additional Protocols of 1977 by teaching international humanitarian law in military and police circles and at the Centre for Legal and Judicial Studies. The Red Crescent Society and the National Committee for Human Rights are preparing specialized courses for military personnel, officials, journalists and students in this area and a Department of Human Rights has been set up in the Ministry of the Interior.

Saudi Arabia

[Original: English]
[16 May 2006]

The Additional Protocols of 1977 are being integrated in the training and educational curriculum of the Armed Forces of Saudi Arabia, and a special course is being formulated for dissemination among them so that it will become part of such training courses. In addition, other measures are being taken to disseminate international humanitarian law at the national level.

Sweden

[Original: English]
[16 May 2006]

1. In order to continue to address individual topics of international humanitarian law, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, together with the National Defence College and with the support of the Ministry of Defence, organized an international expert conference on computer network attacks in Stockholm from 17 to 19 November 2004. The purpose of the conference was to examine whether or not international humanitarian law could be applied to the new phenomenon of computer network attacks.[8]

[8] The conference report is available at www.fhs.se/templates/Page_2775.aspx.

2. Sweden has continuously supported the international tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the International Criminal Court in their efforts to end impunity for serious violations of international humanitarian law, inter alia, by providing financial assistance and entering into bilateral agreements regarding enforcement of sentences and relocation of witnesses.

3. Sweden has set up three national bodies to promote, implement and develop international humanitarian law. The Swedish Total Defence Council for Humanitarian Law was set up 1991 to monitor developments in humanitarian law and to disseminate and promote international humanitarian law in Sweden, the Delegation for International Humanitarian Law Monitoring of Arms Projects to monitor various types of arms projects from the perspective of international law, and the Delegation on Public International Law to supervise developments in international humanitarian law in order to decide on Swedish initiatives in this area.

Syrian Arab Republic

[Original: Arabic]
[28 June 2006]

1. International humanitarian law is currently taught in the law faculties of Syrian universities, at various other institutes, as well as at military colleges and academies and at training courses for the diplomatic corps. Diplomats, judges and experts from the Ministries of Justice and the Interior also take part in international activities to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law, in conjunction with organizations that are actively involved in such work, in particular ICRC and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. The Syrian Arab Republic similarly hosts courses supervised by university professors, judges, lawyers and constitutional institutions, in association with ICRC, the Red Crescent, foreign diplomatic missions, the Arab University and research institutions, both Arab and non-Arab.

2. The National Committee for International Humanitarian Law was established in 2004 under the chairmanship of the Minister of State for Red Crescent Affairs and is tasked with ensuring the application and wide-scale dissemination of the rules of international humanitarian law at the national level. Subcommittees have also been established and activities divided among them on the basis of their respective areas of competence: the media and publication committee; the legislation committee; and the education committee.

3. In addition, Law No. 36 of 2005 relating to protection of the Red Crescent and Red Cross emblems and punishment for their misuse was promulgated.

Tunisia

[Original: Arabic]
[9 June 2005]

1. The Ministry of Defence has adopted a series of measures in support of the rules in force with regard to the dissemination of the provisions of international humanitarian law among the armed forces. Legislative and organizational measures enacted in the furtherance of international humanitarian law relate to the establishment of the minimum age for national service at 20; the protection of the

distinctive emblem of the Red Cross or Red Crescent from misuse; the enactment of deterrent penalties against any soldier or other person using force during armed conflict against a wounded or sick soldier incapable of defending himself; and the adoption of amendments to the general rules of discipline including a series of rules concerning wartime practices and treatment of prisoners.

2. Regarding dissemination, the topic of international humanitarian law has been incorporated in the official curriculum of the various military higher education institutions, training centres and military schools and included in the applied programme at the military unit level. Units participating in peacekeeping tasks abroad are also made aware of the main points in the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols of 1977 and a leaflet is distributed to the participants on the principles of conduct during combat.

3. Furthermore, Tunisia participated in various international and regional training courses, seminars and symposiums, and organized, in collaboration with ICRC, awareness and study sessions on the topic for the benefit of officers from the Ministry of National Defence.

United Arab Emirates

[Original: English]
[5 April 2006]

The United Arab Emirates have taken a number of measures towards the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/36, which include (a) organizing lectures in all units of the armed forces on international humanitarian law and its implementation; (b) including international humanitarian law in the curriculum of the Leadership and Staffing College and the Zayed Military School; (c) inviting specialists in international humanitarian law to participate in exercises carried out by the armed forces; (d) delegating officers from the armed forces to participate in national and international courses, seminars and conferences relating to dissemination and implementation of international humanitarian law; and (e) enhancing awareness of international humanitarian law among the armed forces, and particularly the officers who participate in international peacekeeping operations.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[Original: English]
[27 June 2005]

Measures taken to strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law: international humanitarian law dissemination and education

1. The United Kingdom established a National Committee on International Humanitarian Law in 1999, in line with a recommendation endorsed by the 1995 International Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

2. The United Kingdom offers general international humanitarian law training to governmental policy and legal advisers plus ad hoc events and training as required.

Military training

3. All United Kingdom servicemen and women are instructed in international humanitarian law during their basic training and at all stages of their promotion to higher ranks. International humanitarian law training is an integral part of the preparation for officers' ranks. Relevant training materials have been produced by all three services (Army, Navy and Air Force), who otherwise share a comprehensive set of guidance on "The law of armed conflict".

4. International humanitarian law is also covered as part of pre-deployment training for all service personnel. The Geneva Conventions are covered in legal background briefs received by all deploying troops, and all military personnel receive an aide-mémoire card which clearly states that civilians, prisoners and detainees must be treated with dignity and respect and must not in any way be subject to abuse, torture, inhuman or degrading treatment. Each service also sends lawyers into theatre; it is within their remit to ensure continuity of international humanitarian law training.

Accountability

5. Under the Service Discipline Acts, service personnel are subject to English criminal law wherever they are serving. This means that any conduct which would constitute a criminal offence if committed in England can be prosecuted by court martial. This is in addition to the general extraterritorial scope of the domestic offences under the Geneva Conventions Act 1957, the International Criminal Court Act 2001 and section 134 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (implementing the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984).

Investigation and prosecution of abuses

6. All substantial allegations or suspicions involving activity of a criminal nature by military personnel are investigated by the service police special investigations branch. An investigation is required in every instance where the action of British service personnel may have led directly to the death or injury of civilians in a theatre of operation. When investigations lead to courts martial, these are public and conducted to the same standards of justice and independence that are present in the civilian judicial system.

III. Information received from international organizations

International Committee of the Red Cross

[Original: French]
[27 June 2006]

Significant developments at the international level

1. The highlight of the past two years was the adoption on 8 December 2005 of Additional Protocol III, which establishes an additional emblem, alongside the red cross and the red crescent, conceived in such a way that no national, cultural, religious, political or ethnic connotation can be attributed to it. This emblem,

referred to by the name "red crystal", enjoys the same international status and the same protection regime as the existing emblems and will help to increase the protection of victims.

Initiatives taken by ICRC to reaffirm and strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law

2. ICRC has continued activities and consultations under its project launched in 2003 entitled "Reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law". The project has enabled ICRC to consolidate its legal reading of questions arising out of the fight against terrorism, for instance the legal definition of what is commonly called the "war against terrorism" and the status and rights of persons detained in that context. Furthermore, ICRC has developed a series of procedural principles and guidelines which should govern detention in all circumstances, including detention for security reasons.

3. Another initiative launched by ICRC is the publication of its study on customary international humanitarian law. The study identifies 161 rules of international humanitarian law which, based on a detailed analysis of State practice, its authors believe have customary validity. This publication is intended to foster debate on customary international humanitarian law and its implications in promoting greater respect for this law in armed conflict.

4. ICRC has also continued to participate actively in meetings of the working group to draft a legally binding instrument for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance. The draft convention on enforced disappearance will be submitted for adoption to the Human Rights Council. In addition, ICRC has taken various initiatives for the promotion and development of principles and instruments of international humanitarian law relating to the regulation and prohibition of certain types of weapons, including in relation to anti-personnel landmines, biological weapons and small arms and light weapons.

5. Follow-up to the commitments made at the Twenty-eighth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent is also a priority for ICRC. A number of general objectives were defined in the Final Declaration and the Agenda for Humanitarian Action, including some relating to the legal protection of persons in situations of armed conflict and more specifically regulating the status and rights of missing persons and their families, and the availability, use and misuse of weapons.

Dissemination of international humanitarian law

6. ICRC continued its efforts to promote the dissemination of international humanitarian law and its integration in training and education programmes both for armed personnel and in civil education programmes in schools and universities.

Legal and technical assistance

7. Through its Advisory Service, ICRC is working to provide national authorities with technical assistance for the adoption, implementation and amendment of the required legislative, regulatory and administrative measures in order to ensure observance of international humanitarian law at the national level. The Advisory Service gives advice on the ratification and implementation of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, their Additional Protocols of 1977, and various other

international instruments on humanitarian law and provide support for the amendment or adoption of national implementation measures in various areas, which notably include the repression of war crimes, the protection of the distinctive emblem of the red cross and the red crescent, the protection of cultural property, the status and rights of missing persons and their families, and the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, 1997.

8. The Advisory Service also continued to promote the mandate of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission and to foster cooperation with States parties to Additional Protocol I by facilitating various visits by the Commission and its members to a number of regions.

Support for the National Committees on International Humanitarian Law

9. In order to enhance the effectiveness of the National Committees and support their activities for the implementation of international humanitarian law, the Advisory Service continued to develop an ongoing dialogue with the National Committees and to take part, where appropriate, in their meetings and projects.

National and regional meetings

10. ICRC and its Advisory Service organize or play an active part in events at the national or regional level with a view to familiarizing the authorities of different States with humanitarian law and encouraging consultations and the ongoing exchange of information on the ratification of treaties and their implementation at the national level.

Contacts with other organizations

11. ICRC continued to interact and cooperate with various international and regional organizations and developed its interaction with various international or regional judicial authorities. Furthermore, the ICRC Advisory Service maintained close contacts with various international non-governmental organizations, notably the Coalition for the International Criminal Court and a number of organizations whose activities are aimed at prohibiting or regulating the use of certain weapons.

Documentation and tools

12. The Advisory Service continued to collect, analyse and communicate laws adopted by States and to produce specialized documents. It developed new model laws and worked on the publication of a manual on the implementation of international humanitarian law at the national level. Significant progress was achieved in the development and updating of the database on national measures for implementing international humanitarian law,[9] which includes texts of legislative and regulatory measures adopted by States, as well as jurisprudence of national jurisdictions concerned with international humanitarian law and with its implementation at the national level.

[9] www.icrc.org/ihl-nat.

Annex

List of States parties to the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 as at 20 July 2006[a]

State	*Date of ratification, accession or succession*
Albania	16 July 1993
Algeria [b,c]	16 August 1989
Angola (Protocol I only)[b]	20 September 1984
Antigua and Barbuda	6 October 1986
Argentina [b,c]	26 November 1986
Armenia	7 June 1993
Australia [b,c]	21 June 1991
Austria [b,c]	13 August 1982
Bahamas	10 April 1980
Bahrain	30 October 1986
Bangladesh	8 September 1980
Barbados	19 February 1990
Belarus[c]	23 October 1989
Belgium [b,c]	20 May 1986
Belize	29 June 1984
Benin	28 May 1986
Bolivia[c]	8 December 1983
Bosnia and Herzegovina[c]	31 December 1992
Botswana	23 May 1979
Brazil[c]	5 May 1992
Brunei Darussalam	14 October 1991
Bulgaria[c]	26 September 1989
Burkina Faso[c]	20 October 1987
Burundi	10 June 1993
Cambodia	14 January 1998
Cameroon	16 March 1984
Canada [b,c]	20 November 1990
Cape Verde[c]	16 March 1995
Central African Republic	17 July 1984
Chad	17 January 1997
Chile[c]	24 April 1991
China[b]	14 September 1983
Colombia (Protocol I)[c]	1 September 1993
(Protocol II)	14 August 1995
Comoros	21 November 1985
Congo	10 November 1983

State	*Date of ratification, accession or succession*
Cook Islands[c]	7 May 2002
Costa Rica[c]	15 December 1983
Côte d'Ivoire	20 September 1989
Croatia[c]	11 May 1992
Cuba (Protocol I)	25 November 1982
(Protocol II)	23 June 1999
Cyprus (Protocol I)[c]	1 June 1979
(Protocol II)	18 March 1996
Czech Republic[c]	5 February 1993
Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Protocol I only)	9 March 1988
Democratic Republic of the Congo	
(Protocol I)[c]	3 June 1982
(Protocol II)	12 December 2002
Denmark[b,c]	17 June 1982
Djibouti	8 April 1991
Dominica	25 April 1996
Dominican Republic	26 May 1994
Ecuador	10 April 1979
Egypt[b]	9 October 1992
El Salvador	23 November 1978
Equatorial Guinea	24 July 1986
Estonia	18 January 1993
Ethiopia	8 April 1994
Finland[b,c]	7 August 1980
France (Protocol I)[b]	11 April 2001
(Protocol II)[b]	24 February 1984
Gabon	8 April 1980
Gambia	12 January 1989
Georgia	14 September 1993
Germany[b,c]	14 February 1991
Ghana	28 February 1978
Greece (Protocol I)[c]	31 March 1989
(Protocol II)	15 February 1993
Grenada	23 September 1998
Guatemala	19 October 1987
Guinea[c]	11 July 1984
Guinea-Bissau	21 October 1986
Guyana	18 January 1988
Holy See[b]	21 November 1985

State	*Date of ratification, accession or succession*
Honduras	16 February 1995
Hungary[c]	12 April 1989
Iceland [b,c]	10 April 1987
Ireland [b,c]	19 May 1999
Italy [b,c]	27 February 1986
Jamaica	29 July 1986
Japan[c]	31 August 2004
Jordan	1 May 1979
Kazakhstan	5 May 1992
Kenya	23 February 1999
Kuwait	17 January 1985
Kyrgyzstan	18 September 1992
Lao People's Democratic Republic[c]	18 November 1980
Latvia	24 December 1991
Lebanon	23 July 1997
Lesotho	20 May 1994
Liberia	30 June 1988
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	7 June 1978
Liechtenstein [b,c]	10 August 1989
Lithuania[c]	13 July 2000
Luxembourg[c]	29 August 1989
Madagascar[c]	8 May 1992
Malawi	7 October 1991
Maldives	3 September 1991
Mali[c]	8 February 1989
Malta [b,c]	17 April 1989
Mauritania	14 March 1980
Mauritius	22 March 1982
Mexico (Protocol I only)	10 March 1983
Micronesia (Federated States of)	19 September 1995
Monaco	7 January 2000
Mongolia [b,c]	6 December 1995
Mozambique (Protocol I)	14 March 1983
(Protocol II)	12 November 2002
Namibia[c]	17 June 1994
Nauru	27 June 2006
Netherlands [b,c]	26 June 1987
New Zealand [b,c]	8 February 1988
Nicaragua	19 July 1999
Niger	8 June 1979

State	*Date of ratification, accession or succession*
Nigeria	10 October 1988
Norway[c]	14 December 1981
Oman[b]	29 March 1984
Palau	25 June 1996
Panama[c]	18 September 1995
Paraguay[c]	30 November 1990
Peru	14 July 1989
Philippines (Protocol II only)	11 December 1986
Poland[c]	23 October 1991
Portugal[c]	27 May 1992
Qatar (Protocol I)[b,c]	5 April 1988
(Protocol II)	5 January 2005
Republic of Korea[b,c]	15 January 1982
Republic of Moldova	24 May 1993
Romania[c]	21 June 1990
Russian Federation[b,c]	29 September 1989
Rwanda[c]	19 November 1984
Saint Kitts and Nevis	14 February 1986
Saint Lucia	7 October 1982
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	8 April 1983
Samoa	23 August 1984
San Marino	5 April 1994
Sao Tome and Principe	5 July 1996
Saudi Arabia (Protocol I)[b]	21 August 1987
(Protocol II)	28 November 2001
Senegal	7 May 1985
Serbia[c]	16 October 2001
Seychelles[c]	8 November 1984
Sierra Leone	21 October 1986
Slovakia[c]	2 April 1993
Slovenia[c]	26 March 1992
Solomon Islands	19 September 1988
South Africa	21 November 1995
Spain[b,c]	21 April 1989
Sudan (Protocol I)	7 March 2006
(Protocol II)	13 July 2006
Suriname	16 December 1985
Swaziland	2 November 1995
Sweden[b,c]	31 August 1979
Switzerland[b,c]	17 February 1982

State	*Date of ratification, accession or succession*
Syrian Arab Republic (Protocol I only)[b]	14 November 1983
Tajikistan[c]	13 January 1993
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[b,c]	1 September 1993
Timor-Leste	12 April 2005
Togo[c]	21 June 1984
Tonga[c]	20 January 2003
Trinidad and Tobago[c]	20 July 2001
Tunisia	9 August 1979
Turkmenistan	10 April 1992
Uganda	13 March 1991
Ukraine[c]	25 January 1990
United Arab Emirates[b,c]	9 March 1983
United Kingdom[b,c]	28 January 1998
United Republic of Tanzania	15 February 1983
Uruguay[c]	13 December 1985
Uzbekistan	8 October 1993
Vanuatu	28 February 1985
Venezuela	23 July 1998
Viet Nam (Protocol I only)	19 October 1981
Yemen	17 April 1990
Zambia	4 May 1995
Zimbabwe	19 October 1992

[a] Information was taken from the website of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Depositary of the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols: www.ddip.admin.ch/eda/f/home/foreign/intagr/train.html.

[b] Ratification, accession or succession accompanied by a reservation and/or a declaration.

[c] Party which has made the declaration provided for under article 90 of Protocol I.

United Nations A/61/223

General Assembly

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Sixty-first session
Item 115 of the provisional agenda*
Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Measures taken to improve the operational administration of existing cost-sharing arrangements for safety and security

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared in compliance with paragraph 49 of General Assembly resolution 59/276 (XI) on the strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations. By that resolution, the Assembly established the Department of Safety and Security, recognized the operational difficulties linked to cost-sharing by organizations and decided to maintain existing arrangements with regard to cost-sharing for safety and security. Moreover, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as the Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), while fully implementing the decision of the Assembly to maintain the current cost-sharing arrangements, to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-first session on measures taken to improve the operational administration of existing cost-sharing arrangements.

The present report summarizes the actions taken by the High-level Committee on Management of CEB in compliance with the Assembly's request and outlines the revised modalities agreed upon by the organizations participating in the cost-sharing arrangements for the operational administration of such arrangements.

* A/61/150.

06-45687 (E) 210806

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 59/276 (XI), entitled "Strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations", the General Assembly established a Department of Safety and Security in recognition of the need for the urgent implementation of a unified and strengthened security management system in order to ensure the safety and security of United Nations staff, operations and premises at United Nations Headquarters and main duty stations, as well as in the field.

2. Moreover, the General Assembly, while recognizing the operational difficulties linked to cost-sharing by organizations, decided to maintain existing arrangements with regard to cost-sharing for safety and security rather than funding those costs under the United Nations regular budget. The Secretary-General was requested, however, in his capacity as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), while fully implementing the decision of the Assembly to maintain the current cost-sharing arrangements, to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-first session on measures taken to improve the operational administration of existing cost-sharing arrangements.

II. History and modalities of cost-sharing arrangements under the security management system

3. Details on the principles for the present cost-sharing system are contained in paragraphs 32 and 33 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/56/469), as follows:

> "32. As indicated in paragraph 4 above, following extensive consultations on the cost-sharing arrangements, the organizations of the United Nations system have adopted, within the framework of the High-level Committee on Management, the following principles and modalities of the cost-sharing for the costs associated with the security management system:
>
> "(a) The organizations participating in the United Nations security management system would assume collective responsibility for safety and security of the United Nations personnel, irrespective of the level of that participation;
>
> "(b) The organizations recognized the specific responsibility of the United Nations for the management of the security of United Nations system personnel, given the central role of the Secretary-General in the United Nations system as the Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and his overall leadership over the security and safety of the United Nations personnel;
>
> "(c) Field-related costs, which are incurred in the field or are directly related to providing operational support by Headquarters to the field offices, would be apportioned among participating organizations, while the central costs of the management and direction of the operation would be assumed by the United Nations;
>
> "(d) The cost-sharing formula should be based on a reflection of the number of personnel based in countries not members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for whom the United

Nations system had a responsibility in terms of security and safety. Data on such personnel would be established on the basis of census to be conducted in the year preceding the next biennium.

"33. On the basis of these principles, the following cost-sharing formula has been agreed:

"(a) *Central core costs assumed by United Nations Headquarters*: Executive direction and management, policy and contingency planning, investigation, oversight of security operations, as well as administrative support are considered as central costs and, as such, are a responsibility of the United Nations. They should, therefore, be assumed by the United Nations in their entirety;

"(b) *Field-related costs*: Field-related expenses, to be apportioned once each biennium among all United Nations entities that deploy more than 1 per cent of the total number of personnel covered by the United Nations security management system, in the field, irrespective of contractual status or funding modality of that personnel (i.e. all those individuals for whom the United Nations system has a security responsibility), would include the expenses associated with the field offices operations and relating Headquarters operational support costs. The proportion of the costs to be borne by the participating organizations would be calculated as a percentage of the resulting total, to be determined on the basis of the census to be carried out in all non-OECD duty stations;

"(c) *Participation by agencies having minimal or no field presence*: Those organizations that, on the date of census, have less than half of a percentage point of total personnel covered by the United Nations security management system in the field would contribute a flat fee of $25,000 per biennium. Those organizations that have on that date more than half of a percentage point but stay within one percentage point of total personnel covered by the United Nations security management system in the field would contribute a flat fee of $100,000 per biennium."

III. Actions undertaken by the High-level Committee on Management

4. In response to General Assembly resolution 59/276, the High-level Committee on Management convened a meeting at the technical level in February 2005 to discuss the budget requirements subject to cost-sharing, as well as the different options for future cost-sharing arrangements. The conclusions reached at that meeting are contained in document CEB/2005/HLCM/R.4.

5. At the meeting, participants considered the then applied formula, which apportioned costs on the basis of the percentage of field staff, as per data contained in the Census 2003, including a 25 per cent weight for staff on mission (i.e. all personnel based in countries not members of OECD for whom the United Nations system had a responsibility in terms of security and safety, irrespective of their type of contract and/or duration of contract, including special service agreements, junior professional officers, United Nations Volunteers and peacekeeping civilians). Two

flat rates of $25,000 and $100,000 were applicable to organizations with less than 0.5 per cent and 1 per cent of field staff, respectively.

6. Owing to the significant increase of the field-related security budget subject to cost-sharing since the adoption of the then applied formula, a consensus emerged that a newly agreed minimum level of participation (floor) to such budgets would be appropriate.

7. Of the various options considered, none had a significant impact on the share of the highest paying organizations, unless a ceiling was added in the formula (i.e. maximum share = 10 per cent or 15 per cent); most options entailed a considerable increase in the share of the organizations which had been assessed a flat rate of either $25,000 or $100,000.

8. Some proposals identified a percentage of the organization's budget as an alternative method to set the level of the minimum contribution. Eventually, participants agreed that the current criterion of overall number of field staff carried the most direct link with field-related security costs.

9. Two additional modified options were considered:

(a) Plain apportionment on the basis of actual percentage of staff, with three possible minimum amounts of $50,000, $75,000 and $100,000, respectively;

(b) Apportionment on the basis of actual percentage of staff, minimum of $75,000 and ceiling of either 10 per cent or 15 per cent of total cost, with the excess of the 10 per cent or 15 per cent absorbed by the United Nations Secretariat (see CEB/2005/HLCM/R.4).

10. As the minimum amount of $75,000 represented 0.05 per cent of the indicative 2006-2007 budget for field-related security costs, it was agreed to recommend the option in paragraph 9 (a) above, as shown in the annex to the present report (plain apportionment on the basis of actual percentage of staff, with a minimum amount of $75,000), for adoption by the High-level Committee on Management.

11. The High-level Committee on Management, at its ninth session in April 2005, endorsed the recommendation of the technical meeting and agreed that the apportionment of field-related security costs would be done on the basis of actual percentage of staff (as per the revised Census of 18 July 2003), with a minimum amount of $75,000. The organizations' shares and corresponding amounts, based on the indicative (before recosting) jointly financed resource requirements for the Department of Safety and Security for the biennium 2006-2007 of $169,123,200, is provided in the annex. The World Bank has stated that it disagrees with the cost-sharing formula for safety and security and has withheld its contribution. Discussions are ongoing with that organization. All other agencies, funds and programmes have stated that they have no additional funds to absorb the potential shortfall. Therefore, the operations of the Department of Safety and Security may be impacted.

12. In addition, the High-level Committee on Management at its ninth session decided that a governance system which would ensure more participatory and transparent procedures for future exercises on budgets subject to cost-sharing should be established. This would ensure that all organizations participating in cost-sharing arrangements would be periodically consulted in a timely manner on each step of the formulation, approval, recosting and revision of cost-shared budgets. The High-

level Committee therefore agreed to establish a working group to outline participatory and transparent procedures for its consideration at its tenth session.

13. Following meetings of the working group, the High-level Committee on Management at its tenth session, in October 2005, endorsed the conclusions of its working group, agreeing that a consultative process must entail dialogue with organizations on the strategic direction of the security management system and on the scope of operational requirements for the field-related activities, and should not be merely limited to modalities for the cost-sharing arrangements. This process must be timely and in line with both the United Nations budgetary planning cycle and that of the agencies, funds and programmes so that a consensus may be reached on those inputs which are subject to cost-sharing, while at the same time allowing the agencies, funds and programmes to include resource needs in their budgetary requests to their respective governing bodies.

14. For a future consultative process on the security budget subject to cost-sharing, the High-level Committee on Management agreed that all discussion concerning the substantive aspects of field-related security, including details of jointly financed posts, should be taken up in the context of the Inter-agency Security Management Network. Further consultations would proceed with the Network on the strategic direction and operational requirements of security arrangements for the field in the context of budget preparation, thereby assuring a security budget proposal which has the endorsement of stakeholders.

15. Regarding the reporting requirements foreseen for the benefit of the organizations participating in the cost-sharing arrangements, the Department of Safety and Security would provide periodic reports on the structure and distribution of jointly financed posts, with corresponding functions, and the status of their incumbency, and update such information on a regular basis. The detail of objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, in line with the results-based budgetary framework of the United Nations, is included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, section 33, Safety and security (A/60/6 (Sect. 33)).

16. Any savings from the budgeted costs would be credited to the organizations' share for the next biennium.

17. Finally, the High-level Committee on Management recommended that the Finance and Budget Network be part of the consultative process to deal with any financial aspects of the cost-sharing arrangements.

IV. Actions undertaken by the Inter-agency Security Management Network

18. In line with the consultative process defined in the context of the High-level Committee on Management, the strategic direction and operational requirements of security arrangements for the field, as well as the corresponding cost-sharing arrangements, were discussed at the Inter-agency Security Management Network meeting, held in Vienna in May 2006. At that meeting, the Network formulated recommendations, which the High-level Committee will consider and on which it will take action at its upcoming fall session, scheduled for 30 September to 1 October 2006.

19. The Inter-agency Security Management Network recalled the basis upon which the cost-sharing arrangements were agreed in 2001, i.e. field-related costs, which are incurred in the field or are directly related to providing operational support by Headquarters to field offices, would be apportioned among participating organizations, while the central costs of the management and direction of the Department of Safety and Security would be assumed by the United Nations.

20. The Inter-agency Security Management Network was unanimous in agreeing that the contents of the revised programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007 and the strategic framework for the biennium 2008-2009 showed an expansion in the proposed scope of activities, which went beyond the originally agreed structure and terms of reference, including cost-sharing arrangements relating to the establishment of the Department of Safety and Security. Amendments proposed by the Network were incorporated into the strategic framework for 2008-2009.

21. The Inter-agency Security Management Network therefore decided that it was necessary to establish a working group to redraft the work plan as it related to the cost-sharing portion of the Department of Safety and Security budget to ensure that it incorporated the needs of the agencies, funds and programmes and that it fell within the scope of resolution 59/276. The working group will submit its report no later than 1 September 2006. It was also noted that the High-level Committee on Management should consider the 2008-2009 budget proposal for the Department of Safety and Security prior to its finalization and submission to the General Assembly.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

22. **The apportionment of field-related security costs would be done on the basis of the actual percentage of organizations' personnel based in countries not members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development for whom the United Nations system has a responsibility in terms of security and safety, with a minimum amount of $75,000.**

23. **A consultative process is being undertaken between organizations participating in the cost-sharing arrangements, entailing dialogue on the strategic direction of the security management system and on the scope of operational requirements for the field-related activities, which is not merely limited to modalities for the cost-sharing arrangements. This process is being undertaken in a timely manner and is in line with both the United Nations budgetary planning cycle and that of the agencies, funds and programmes so that a consensus may be reached on those inputs which are subject to cost-sharing, while at the same time allowing the agencies, funds and programmes to include resource needs in their budgetary requests to their respective governing bodies.**

24. **All discussion concerning the substantive aspects of field-related security is being held in the context of the Inter-agency Security Management Network, including consultations on the strategic direction and operational requirements of security arrangements for the field.**

25. **The General Assembly may wish to take note of the present report.**

Annex

Distribution of field-related jointly financed resource requirements for the Department of Safety and Security for the biennium 2006-2007[a]

Organization	*New number of staff (revised Census 2003, including 25 per cent of staff on mission)*	*New percentage of staff*	*Distribution of 2006-2007 indicative field-related security costs based on adopted cost-sharing formula*	*Effective percentage share of costs*
Asian Development Bank	101	0.14	240 318	0.14
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	78	0.11	185 592	0.11
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	2 693	3.79	6 407 678	3.79
International Atomic Energy Agency	40	0.06	95 175	0.06
International Civil Aviation Organization	198	0.28	471 118	0.28
International Fund for Agricultural Development	0	0.00	75 000	0.04
International Labour Organization	1 562	2.20	3 716 596	2.20
International Monetary Fund	315	0.44	749 506	0.44
International Maritime Organization	51	0.07	121 349	0.07
International Organization for Migration	1 966	2.77	4 677 866	2.77
International Trade Centre	21	0.03	75 000	0.04
International Telecommunication Union	64	0.09	152 280	0.09
Pan American Health Organization	328	0.46	780 438	0.46
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	133	0.19	316 458	0.19
United Nations Development Programme	11 010	15.51	26 197 003	15.49
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	1 505	2.12	3 580 971	2.12
United Nations Population Fund	1 331	1.88	3 166 958	1.87
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	4 513	6.36	10 738 154	6.35
United Nations Children's Fund	7 429	10.47	17 676 434	10.45
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	125	0.18	297 423	0.18
United Nations Office for Project Services	932	1.31	2 217 585	1.31

Organization	*New number of staff (revised[b] Census 2003, including 25 per cent of staff on mission)*	*New percentage of staff*	*Distribution of 2006-2007 indicative field-related security costs based on adopted cost-sharing formula*	*Effective percentage share of costs*
United Nations University	42	0.06	99 934	0.06
United Nations Volunteers	462	0.65	1 099 275	0.65
Universal Postal Union	7	0.01	75 000	0.04
World Food Programme[c]	9 230	13.01	21 961 702	12.99
World Health Organization	6 301	8.88	14 992 490	8.86
World Intellectual Property Organization	0	0.00	75 000	0.04
World Meteorological Organization	18	0.03	75 000	0.04
World Bank	4 347	6.13	10 343 177	6.12
United Nations total[d]	**16 165**	**22.78**	**38 462 721**	**22.74**
Total	**70 967**	**100.00**	**169 123 200**	**100.0**

[a] As per CEB/2005/HLCM/R.14, annex IV (actual percentage of staff as per revised Census of 18 July 2003; minimum contribution of $75,000; indicative 2006-2007 costs, excluding Malicious Acts Insurance costs).

[b] As of 20 September 2005, all organizations except IOM, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), UNHCR, UNICEF, UNV, WFP and the World Bank had confirmed or corrected originally submitted Census 2003 staff figures.

[c] WFP provided revised field staff figures on 26 October 2005.

[d] United Nations total includes peacekeeping, United Nations Environment Programme and 697 UNRWA staff reported in the original Census 2003 exercise.

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General Assembly

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Sixty-first session
Item 40 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

New international humanitarian order

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/171. It examines five key issues that are cornerstones for contemporary humanitarian action around the world: (a) prevention; (b) access to people in need; (c) the right to humanitarian assistance; (d) local capacity-building; and (e) burden-sharing. In addition, the report identifies humanitarian issues that need greater attention at the international level and proposes practical recommendations for the future.

* A/61/150

** The report was submitted late, as input from external partners was made available to the Secretariat after the deadline.

06-45936 (E) 230806

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 11 of its resolution 59/171, the General Assembly invited Member States, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, relevant entities of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues, to reinforce activities and cooperation so as to continue to develop an agenda for humanitarian action. In paragraph 12, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to support the process of developing an agenda for humanitarian action and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the overall progress made. The present report is submitted in compliance with that request.

2. In the last report of the Secretary-General on the matter (A/59/554), which led to resolution 59/171, it was mentioned that the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues, which had helped initiate and pursue the concept of the proposed agenda, would be involved in developing it further and would assist in the implementation process. The present report is prepared in line with the proposed agenda and deals with five key issues that are cornerstones for contemporary humanitarian action around the world: (a) prevention; (b) access to people in need; (c) the right to humanitarian assistance; (d) local capacity-building; and (e) burden-sharing. In addition, there is mention in the report of humanitarian issues that need greater attention at the international level on account of their impact on vulnerable groups. Finally, replies received from Governments and from the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues on the new international humanitarian order are contained in the annex to the report.

II. Five key issues

A. Prevention

3. Prevention is better than cure. It saves lives, reduces suffering, diminishes vulnerability and, consequently, can make emergency operations redundant. Preventive measures are most effective if launched at the outset of an escalating situation or as early as possible in a situation potentially requiring humanitarian action. In the case of man-made disasters, the neighbouring countries, in particular, and the outside world, in general, may know about a situation before it escalates into a humanitarian emergency. The situation is rather different in most cases of natural disasters. However, the remedy for both categories requires the establishment of early warning systems at the national and regional levels, connected with an operational unit at the national level as well as within the United Nations and existing regional bodies. International relief assistance should adequately supplement national efforts.

B. Access to people in need

4. The question of access to the needy is an essential part of the role of the United Nations as well as regional organizations. In recent decades, the lack of access has led to the deaths or change of residence of millions of people. Speedy

and timely access of humanitarian agencies, whether intergovernmental or non-governmental, is essential for effective action. A declaration relating to basic tenets of humanitarian action in emergency situations, which includes provisions for timely access, was contained in the annex to document A/60/627. Its adoption by the General Assembly will facilitate speedy and effective action at the national and regional levels and facilitate timely action by the international community.

C. Right to humanitarian assistance

5. The issue of the right to humanitarian assistance has remained a debatable point despite the fact that reference is made to it in article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 as well as in article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966. The former grants everyone the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of the person and the family, while the latter recognizes the right of everyone to an adequate level of living, including food, clothing and housing and the continuous improvement of living conditions. Article 11 further obligates States to take appropriate measures to ensure the realization of this right and recognizes that international cooperation on a voluntary basis is of paramount importance.

6. The right to humanitarian assistance depends entirely on the timely and careful identification and evaluation of actual needs. The assistance itself should be designed and monitored regularly, following a thorough assessment of needs, which should be comprehensive and multisectoral, and must be based on the participation of all involved parties as well as external experts recruited from the global research community.

D. Local capacity-building

7. Humanitarian action can be more effective and successful if there are local support entities and a structure behind it. No emergency situation can be fully alleviated without the involvement of local communities, nor can international humanitarian agencies operate effectively without the support of local staff and local people. However, where local capacities are weak or partially non-existent as a result of an emergency, humanitarian action must engage in building local capacity from the outset in emergency-prone areas as an integral part of humanitarian assistance. The employment-generating capacity at the local government level can be increased through the provision of training and will thereby enhance humanitarian efforts.

8. A sound local capacity-building programme not only helps ensure the preparedness of the affected communities and countries, but also strengthens local structures during emergencies and accelerates the process of normalization. At the same time, it enables the local communities to handle future emergencies on their own and to reduce loss of life and property.

E. Burden-sharing

9. The United Nations functions in accordance with the principle of burden-sharing, with Member States contributing financially according to their relative ability to pay. Burden-sharing applies to all humanitarian actions and related operational activities on a voluntary basis in accordance with the principle contained in article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It is still a fundamental aspect of the global development process and will remain so in the context of United Nations efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In view of the fact that colossal disasters, man-made or natural, can strike in all parts of the world, burden-sharing in humanitarian action is an essential international requirement. Consequently, it is crucial for the United Nations that burden-sharing be institutionalized as the sine qua non practice at the international level. It would strengthen and consolidate policies of international cooperation.

III. Humanitarian issues: recommendations for the future

10. In the United Nations system, the specialized agencies and subsidiary organs have been dealing with a series of humanitarian issues ever since the establishment of the system. Developments in recent years call for further strengthening of the system. For instance, the man-made and natural disasters that have led to a series of emergencies around the world call for the reinforcement and adjustment of humanitarian action. The ongoing efforts call for international support.

11. During the present decade, disasters such as floods and earthquakes, which have affected millions of persons, have required gigantic relief efforts. In this specific context, the armed forces have also played a useful role in assisting victims. In view of the fact that armies require a large part of the national budget, it would be useful if research could be undertaken on the role of armed forces in socio-economic development, as stated in document A/59/554.

12. Moreover, it would be useful to analyse further the transition from relief to development so that efforts during emergencies could also lead to concrete efforts for durable development. Likewise, it would be useful to investigate the nexus between human rights and humanitarian issues — a matter that would be of interest, inter alia, to the recently established Council for Human Rights.

13. There are also some emerging humanitarian problems which need to be identified and analysed for constructive international action. For example, the number of internally displaced persons has grown bigger than the number of refugees, however the needs of internally displaced persons have not been met to a satisfactory extent outside national efforts. Likewise, the number of beggars and street children is increasing, particularly in the Third World. At the same time, terrorism as well as internal conflicts are creating more and more victims. There is a need to analyse and seek solutions to humanitarian problems being faced in many parts of the world. At the same time, efforts should be made at the international level to reduce poverty and solve problems being faced by countries in the Third World. In short, it is high time to promote a new international humanitarian order, a subject which has been on the agenda of the General Assembly for quite a few years.

Annex

Replies received from Governments and from the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues

Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. The Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina fully recognizes and supports the need to promote a new international humanitarian order. On the basis of its own experience, efforts can be made also to promote peace and encourage the prevention of conflicts. In this context, the United Nations peacebuilding efforts have an important role. Likewise, United Nations activities in the humanitarian field benefit millions of people on all continents. In line with United Nations policies, considerable efforts have been made in recent years, in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the field of the repatriation and rehabilitation of refugees.

2. Recently, in collaboration with the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues, the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations in New York arranged, through the President of the General Assembly, the official issuance of a draft declaration relating to basic tenets of humanitarian action in emergency situations (A/60/627, annex).

3. The Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues prepared a research paper containing an explanation of each of the 30 articles of the draft declaration, which was circulated to all permanent missions to the United Nations in New York by the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the end of July 2006. The research paper was prepared in order to facilitate the adoption of the declaration by the General Assembly in view of the fact that there is an increasing number of natural and man-made disasters in the world.

Jordan

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in its last contribution to the report of the Secretary-General relating to the promotion of a new international humanitarian order (A/59/554), had specifically mentioned that it remains "tenacious in its efforts to identify humanitarian problems facing the country and the region and in seeking solutions to them" and that "one of the major challenges in the region continues to be the problem of refugees". Unfortunately, the present situation in the Middle East, owing to the conflict in Lebanon, makes these Jordanian statements much more relevant than before. In this context, it is appropriate to quote here what has already been stated by Jordan in the above-mentioned document:

> "Armed conflicts between and within States have made the need for durable peace more urgent. It is important to recall in this connection that in one of its earlier contributions to the reports of the Secretary-General, the Jordanian Government pointed out on the basis of the experience of various countries around the world that peace is durable not when it is achieved only through negotiations but, above all, when it is built and consolidated at the grass-roots level."

2. There is no doubt that it would be most appropriate for the United Nations to develop and advance a humanitarian order more suitable for dealing with natural and man-made disasters. In its recent meeting, the Economic and Social Council dealt with the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations. Likewise, the proposal made for the benefit of field staff and field work regarding humanitarian action in emergency situations, proposed recently by Bosnia and Herzegovina in collaboration with the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues, will be most useful when the related declaration is adopted by the General Assembly.

The Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues

1. The Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues (IBHI) has been involved in the promotion of the new international humanitarian order since its inception in 1988. In line with the last report on the issue (A/59/554), it has been actively supporting the suggested agenda for humanitarian action in response to General Assembly resolution 59/171 and is elaborating the constituent elements to form the nucleus of the agenda. IBHI is, at the same time, promoting the implementation of crucial recommendations by its predecessor body: the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues. In this context, IBHI has been involved in preparing the draft declaration relating to basic tenets of humanitarian action in emergency situations, brought to the attention of the States Members of the United Nations by the President of the Assembly (document A/60/627, annex) and has prepared a detailed research paper which explains the provisions of all the articles. The paper was distributed to all the States Members of the United Nations by the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations in advance of the meeting of the Third Committee during the sixty-first session of the Assembly.

2. IBHI is preparing a number of reports concerning the proposed agenda for humanitarian action and related humanitarian issues, as mentioned in its last contribution to the report of the Secretary-General (A/59/554). The Bureau is also determined to bring basic human rights instruments relating to subjects such as women, children and minorities to the knowledge of the general public through the translation, publication and dissemination of such documentation in local and national languages, in view of the fact that more than half of the world's population cannot read documents in most of the official United Nations languages. If people know what their human rights and freedoms are recognized to be, the spirit of democracy would have an additional chance of gaining ground, and vulnerable groups, such as women and minorities, would get a powerful weapon in their struggle for a better life.

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Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind; implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; Convention on Biological Diversity

Implementation of United Nations environmental conventions

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

* A/61/150

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Implementation of United Nations environmental conventions

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I. Report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention

A. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 60/197 of 22 December 2005, invited the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[1] to report to it at its sixty-first session on the work of the Conference of the Parties. The present report is submitted in response to that invitation.

B. Outcome of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and of the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

1. Summary

2. The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was held in Montreal, Canada, from 28 November to 9 December 2005. It included the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

3. The conference received much political attention. Momentum had built up after the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol on 16 February 2005, and with the political positions on climate change adopted at the Gleneagles meeting of the Group of Eight and the 2005 World Summit.

4. Participation in the conference reached a record high with a total of 9,500 participants, including the participation of many environmental non-governmental organizations. Over 120 ministers attended the high-level segment.

5. One major outcome of the conference was the opening of a two-track approach to discussions to determine the future directions of global action on climate change. Under the Kyoto Protocol, an open-ended ad hoc working group had been established to discuss further commitments by industrialized countries, to be complemented by preparations for a broader review of the Protocol to be held at the second session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. Under the Convention, a dialogue process was initiated with the aim of exchanging experiences and analysing strategic approaches for long-term cooperative action to address climate change. It will address action on adaptation and ways and means of realizing the full potential of technology and market-based opportunities, all in the context of advancing development goals in a sustainable way.

6. As at 10 July 2006, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change had 189 parties and the Kyoto Protocol had been ratified by 164 States.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

2. Outcome of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

7. At its first session, the Conference of the Parties adopted 36 decisions, completing the institutional architecture of the Kyoto Protocol and strengthening implementation measures.

8. In the first week of the conference, the Marrakesh Accords, a series of decisions defining the institutional details of the Kyoto Protocol, were adopted, thus making the Kyoto Protocol fully operational. The decisions had been prepared by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session in Marrakesh in 2001 and completed in the following years, but were still subject to formal approval by the Conference of the Parties.

9. Although the Marrakesh Accords also included an agreement to set up a compliance committee, the legal form for adopting compliance procedures had remained open. The Parties adopted the compliance procedures and decided to commence consideration of a possible amendment to the Protocol on compliance. They also elected the members of the committee, which would oversee operation of the compliance regime of the Kyoto Protocol. The committee began its work in March 2006 and is developing its rules of procedure and operating practices.

10. With the adoption of the Marrakesh Accords, the three "flexibility mechanisms" of the Kyoto Protocol are now formally approved. They include emission trading and joint implementation, which are both limited to industrialized country parties to the Kyoto Protocol with quantified greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. They also include the clean development mechanism, a unique instrument that combines support to sustainable development in developing countries through private investment and technology transfer with enhancing cost-effectiveness of required emission reductions in industrialized countries. The mechanism had been launched under the Convention and has seen exponential growth over the past year. From a few dozen registered projects at the end of 2005, the mechanism had grown to 230 projects by early July 2006, with over 570 more projects in the pipeline (at 10 July 2006). Projects currently in the mechanism pipeline are expected to reduce emissions by over 1 billion tons by 2012.

11. The Conference of the Parties also agreed on steps to strengthen the mechanism, by streamlining its procedures and increasing the financial resources to support its governance structure.

12. The parties established the Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee and elected its members. The Committee had a successful start at its first meeting in February 2006.

13. Global carbon markets were strengthened at the conference. The decision to open the way for negotiations on commitments beyond 2012 provided a signal to the markets, giving them a longer-term perspective that encouraged investments with paybacks beyond 2012. The many business representatives present in Montreal had advocated the strengthening of carbon markets.

14. One of the critical vehicles for supporting activities in developing countries is the Adaptation Fund established under the Kyoto Protocol. The Conference of the Parties adopted a decision giving initial guidance for the operation of the Fund.

15. The parties noted the importance of capacity-building in developing countries and economies in transition for the successful implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. Two corresponding decisions on capacity-building relating to the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol in developing countries and in economies in transition were adopted, setting up a framework for activities in those areas.

16. The Conference of the Parties agreed to initiate a process to consider further commitments for industrialized countries for the period beyond 2012 in accordance with article 3, paragraph 9, of the Protocol. It established for that purpose an open-ended ad hoc working group of parties to the Kyoto Protocol, which will report on its progress to the Conference of the Parties at each session. The group will aim to complete its work and have its results adopted by the parties as early as possible to ensure that there is no gap between the first and the second commitment periods of the Kyoto Protocol. The first meeting of the group was convened in May 2006, and the second meeting is to be held in conjunction with the second session of the Conference of the Parties in Nairobi in November 2006.

3. Outcome of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

17. The 13 formal decisions adopted by the Conference, some of which are noted below, will further advance measures to mitigate climate change and to adapt to its impact.

18. Major progress under the Framework Convention was made in the area of adaptation, a five-year work programme for the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change was adopted. The work programme will develop the technical basis for increasing resilience to the potential impact of climate change.

19. The Conference of the Parties considered the report of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which contained information on its major activities in its function as the operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention. It urged GEF to continue its efforts to mobilize resources additional to those already pledged and to support the implementation of project activities under the Special Climate Change Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund. The Conference also adopted a decision to provide additional guidance to GEF, including a request to consider whether supporting carbon capture and storage technologies, in particular related capacity-building activities, would be consistent with its strategies and objectives and, if so, how they could be incorporated within its operational programmes.

20. The Conference of the Parties adopted a decision providing further guidance for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund. It requested GEF to develop a co-financing scale for supporting activities identified in national adaptation programmes of action, and to develop flexible modalities to ensure balanced access to resources. The parties recognized the contribution of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group supporting the preparation of the programmes of action and decided to extend its mandate.

21. The parties considered the terms of reference for the Expert Group on Technology Transfer, a constituted body tasked with enhancing the implementation of article 4, paragraph 5, of the Convention. The Conference welcomed the progress

in implementation of the framework and requested parties to express their views on the status and continuation of the Group.

22. The Conference requested parties to identify research needs and priorities to support the implementation of the Convention, and assigned to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice the task of regular consideration of research needs and systematic observation relating to the Convention.

23. The implementation of the Convention continues. As at 6 June 2006, 132 of 148 developing countries had submitted their initial national communications, and five least developed countries had prepared national adaptation programmes of action to identify priority activities that respond to their urgent and immediate needs with regard to adaptation to climate change.

24. Industrialized countries were requested to submit their fourth national communications to the secretariat by 1 January 2006. As at 28 June 2006, 24 of 36 countries had submitted their fourth national communication.

25. The Conference of the Parties approved the continuation of the institutional linkage of the secretariat of the Framework Convention to the United Nations until such time as a review was deemed necessary by either the Conference of the Parties or the General Assembly. The Secretary-General was invited to seek the endorsement of the General Assembly at its sixty-first session for the continuation of the linkage.

26. The budget for the secretariat of the Framework Convention for the coming biennium was adopted. That decision had already been prepared in May 2006 by a subsidiary body and was adopted without any further discussion.

4. High-level segment

27. The joint high-level segment of the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh session and the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol at its first session was addressed by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Louise Fréchette. This was followed by an address by the Prime Minister of Canada, Paul Martin, who called for a global response and action by all countries.

28. The Conference of the Parties, pursuant to an initiative by its President, adopted a decision launching a dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention. The dialogue, in the form of a non-binding exchange of views and ideas in support of enhanced implementation of the Convention, will focus on four areas: advancing development goals in a sustainable way; addressing action on adaptation; realizing the full potential of technology; and realizing the full potential of market-based opportunities. The first dialogue workshop was held in May 2006 and the second is scheduled for November 2006 in conjunction with the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties.

C. Conclusions and recommendations

29. **The General Assembly may wish, inter alia:**

(a) **To take note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as transmitted by the Secretary-General;**

(b) **To note the outcome of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and of the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, hosted by the Government of Canada from 28 November to 9 December 2005;**

(c) **To approve the continuation of the institutional linkage of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to the United Nations until such time as a review is deemed necessary by the Conference of the Parties or the General Assembly;**

(d) **To invite the Executive Secretary to continue to report to it on the work of the Conference.**

II. Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

A. Introduction

1. In its resolution 60/201 of 22 December 2005, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa. The present report has been prepared in response to the resolution. It also outlines the status of the celebration of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification.

B. Outcome of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties

2. The seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention was held in Nairobi from 17 to 28 October 2005. A brief oral report on that session was presented to the General Assembly by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on 2 November 2005. The Conference of the Parties adopted a number of decisions, including decisions relating to the strengthening of the implementation of the Convention. Special emphasis was put on the improvement of the work of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention as well as on a strategy to foster that instrument in the light of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit submitted to the Conference. The Conference of the Parties advanced the work of the Committee on Science and Technology by adopting several decisions aimed at improving its efficiency and effectiveness. Other decisions relate to the mobilization of resources, in particular those provided through the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

3. The Conference of the Parties also adopted the programme and budget for the biennium 2006-2007. For the first time, the Conference reviewed the relation between the secretariat of the Convention and its host country and adopted a decision on that matter.

1. Strengthening the process of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and its implementation

4. The Conference of the Parties focused on Africa, aware that African country parties continue to face considerable difficulties, especially in accessing funding to support national undertakings to eradicate poverty and diversify livelihoods while combating desertification, land degradation and rural poverty. The Conference urged African country parties to strengthen national coordinating bodies with a view to effectively influencing policymaking processes in order to deliver coordination and mainstreaming functions. In that regard, the Conference of the Parties provided guidance to capacity-building activities, partnership-building, mainstreaming, mobilization and channelling of resources for the implementation of national action programmes in Africa.

5. Strengthening the implementation of the Convention implies reforming its institutions to adapt them to new challenges. In that respect, the Conference of the Parties initiated necessary adjustments to the elaboration process and the implementation of action programmes, including a review of the enhanced implementation of the obligations under the Convention and improved procedures for the communication of information, as well as of the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties.

6. The Conference of the Parties also stressed the need for strategic guidance and targets in order to foster the implementation of the Convention, as stated in article 4 of the Convention. In that regard, the Conference reviewed the report of the Joint Inspection Unit and decided to establish an ad hoc intergovernmental intersessional working group with the mandate to review the report in full and, building on the results of that review and other inputs, to develop a draft 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention.

7. The working group would consider major issues, such as to enhance parties' capacities to integrate Convention objectives into regional, subregional and national development plans and strategies; to engage the international community in setting benchmarks and defining indicators for progress; and to make the Convention a centre of excellence in scientific and technical knowledge and best practices.

8. The group would also consider ways and means to improve synergies with other processes. It would, inter alia, consider how to enhance synergies between combating desertification and land degradation; climate change mitigation and adaptation; biodiversity conservation and sustainable use; how to ensure that enhanced synergies contribute to the fulfilment of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, as agreed at the Millennium Summit; how to improve political will and commitment to the Convention; how to improve the engagement and commitment of parties to the Convention; and how to ensure a better balance between the resourcing of the secretariat and the core functions that the parties are asking it to perform.

9. The working group would also reflect on resource mobilization by reviewing how to ensure better targeting of existing resources and how to mobilize new resources for the implementation of the Convention; how to build the capacities of affected developing country parties to access financial resources, especially GEF, for funding activities to combat desertification and land degradation; and how to improve resourcing for activities to combat desertification and land degradation, especially through GEF.

10. The Conference of the Parties also noted the importance of the issue of desertification in the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It invited the parties, the Executive Secretary and other relevant stakeholders to prepare for, and participate in, the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Commission with a view to demonstrating that the development and promotion of new and renewable energy sources in drylands constituted a critical issue for sustainable development, access to energy and energy efficiency; and that the implementation of action programmes under the Convention can make a significant contribution in that context. In 2008 and 2009, at its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions, the Commission will take up thematic clusters on agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification. In that regard, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to include an agenda item on the

preparation of those sessions in the agenda of the eighth session of the Conference, and requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a background paper, drawing in particular on the outcomes of the third and fifth sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, for discussion at the Conference of the Parties at its eighth session.

2. Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology

11. The Conference reviewed the activities of the Group of Experts and encouraged the parties, through their national focal points, to revise and update the database on their national experts already on the roster of independent experts, and to propose new candidates in order to achieve better representation of all relevant disciplines, social scientists, women, non-governmental organizations and all individuals with expertise in the field of desertification. The Conference also encouraged parties to develop initiatives on traditional knowledge in collaboration with other institutions and organizations and invited them to protect, promote and use traditional knowledge by involving local experts and local communities, and to foster integration of traditional and modern knowledge in combating desertification.

12. Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties acknowledged the need to improve the country profile as a promising tool for presenting data on the implementation of the Convention by using benchmarks and indicators, and requested the Group of Experts to give special attention to participatory and integrated approaches to benchmark and indicator systems for the monitoring and assessment of the socio-economic and biophysical aspects of desertification. The parties were encouraged to develop and use indicators to assess the impact of intervention measures in order to indicate progress in implementing the Convention.

13. The Conference furthermore invited relevant United Nations organizations, international bodies, agencies and developed country parties to assist developing country parties in the development of early warning systems by providing technological and financial support. Finally, the Conference adopted a comprehensive programme of work for the Committee on Science and Technology.

14. Taking note of the interest of the Committee on Science and Technology in the relationship between climate and land degradation, monitoring and assessment, soil and water conservation, renewable energies, vulnerability and livelihood improvement, the Conference of the Parties decided that the priority theme for discussion by the Committee at its eighth session would be "The effects of climatic variations and human activities on land degradation: assessment, field experience gained, and integration of mitigation and adaptation practices for livelihood improvement".

3. Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

15. The Conference of the Parties decided to conclude with the Council of GEF a memorandum of understanding, and invited the secretariats of GEF and the Convention to make appropriate arrangements to implement it. It also welcomed the country pilot partnerships of GEF and the TerrAfrica initiative of the World Bank as potential tools for strengthening partnership-building for the implementation of the Convention, and recommended coordination between those processes and consideration of their expansion if found to be successful.

16. Aware of the importance of the implementation of the Convention at the national level, the Conference of the Parties invited GEF to make financial resources available for capacity-building activities in affected country parties implementing the Convention and to facilitate coordination between GEF and Convention focal points at the country level to enable GEF to better respond to the needs of the Convention process.

17. The Conference of the Parties also reviewed the implementation of the operational programme on sustainable land management. It welcomed the GEF Council decision taken at its meeting in May 2003, by which it recognized that, in the framework of capacity-building projects to be funded under Operational Programme 15, the elaboration of national, subregional and regional action programmes and national reports were considered components, and invited GEF to implement that decision when assisting developing country parties. In the same vein, the Conference welcomed the GEF Council decision taken at its meeting in May 2003 by which it was agreed that, in the implementation of Operational Programme 15, the process of determining incremental costs should be made more transparent and its application more pragmatic, and invited GEF to ensure its appropriate application.

4. Activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies

18. At the Conference of the Parties, the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change prepared a joint paper on options for enhanced cooperation among the three Rio conventions. The Conference of the Parties also reviewed the collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and expressed its appreciation to the secretariats for the work undertaken in developing their joint work programme on biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands. It encouraged parties to take the necessary measures to ensure its effective implementation with a view to achieving the relevant 2010 targets.

19. The Convention of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to pursue consultations and closer collaboration with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other interested organizations with a view to fostering joint initiatives related to sustainable forest management.

5. Budget

20. The approved budget of the secretariat of the Convention and the Global Mechanism for the biennium 2004-2005 was negatively affected by fluctuations in the euro/United States dollar exchange rate. Both organizations are based in the euro zone. For the biennium 2006-2007, the Conference of the Parties adopted a number of measures to reduce the risk of budget loss due to currency fluctuations in the programme and budget for the biennium 2006-2007 and subsequent bienniums. The Joint Inspection Unit made a recommendation asking the Conference of the Parties to consider adopting euro budgeting, and a single currency system of assessment, the euro, beginning with the biennium 2008-2009. In that respect, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to determine with the assistance of

United Nations Headquarters and the United Nations Office at Geneva the costs of any changes to the Integrated Management Information System and any other related costs of accounting for the activities of the secretariat in euros, including holding contributions as euros rather than United States dollars, and to report back to the President of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session regarding the costs necessary to implement such changes. More importantly, it decided to introduce the euro as the budget and accounting currency from the beginning of the biennium 2008-2009.

C. Celebration of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification

1. General considerations

21. By its resolution 58/211, the General Assembly decided to declare 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification, with a view to raising global public awareness of the increasing challenges posed by desertification, to safeguard the biological diversity of arid lands covering one third of the planet and to protect the knowledge and traditions of affected communities.

22. At its seventh session the Conference of the Parties thoroughly reviewed the report of the Executive Secretary on the preparation for the International Year of Deserts and Desertification. The Conference invited those parties, international and non-governmental organizations that had not yet done so to inform the secretariat of activities envisaged for the year.

23. The Conference of the Parties also requested the secretariat to make available to the parties and observers a consolidated list containing all activities reported in order to coordinate the information and avoid overlapping of activities. Accordingly, a specially dedicated website http://www.iydd.org has been put into place to provide background information on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the International Year of Deserts and Desertification to the public at large, relevant news for the media, access to the national committees established in some countries and a list of activities updated on a daily basis.

24. Likewise, the Conference of the Parties had encouraged country parties to make voluntary contributions to the Supplementary Fund in order to ensure adequate implementation of resolution 58/211. It is to be underlined that the Governments of Italy, Switzerland and Finland have effectively contributed or confirmed a pledge to the Fund as a way to support major international meetings planned for 2006, such as the Beijing International Conference on Women and Desertification, a meeting in Buenos Aires on global implementation assessment of the Convention, the Bamako International Conference on Youth and Desertification and other public information activities. In addition, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development have concluded agreements with the secretariat with a view to supporting targeted public information activities, including the production of joint publications, media and parliamentary alerts and training of journalists.

25. In a concerted inter-agency effort to raise the visibility of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification, World Biodiversity Day was observed on 22 May 2006 under the theme "Protection of the biological diversity of the

drylands". Furthermore, UNEP together with the Government of Algeria celebrated in Algiers World Environmental Day on 5 June under the theme "Deserts and desertification: don't desert drylands". Finally, the World Day To Combat Desertification 2006 had the theme "The beauty of deserts — the challenge of desertification".

2. Major international events for the International Year of Deserts and Desertification

26. **Beijing Conference on Women and Desertification.** The Conference was held from 29 May to 1 June 2006 and was organized by the Governments of Algeria, China and Italy and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The Conference highlighted the fundamental role played by women as the main stakeholders in managing natural resources, food production and meeting household needs, such as energy and water in rural areas affected by desertification and drought. It was agreed at the Conference that women are severely affected by land degradation and desertification, making their conditions the most difficult and insecure in all societies. The participants identified education, health and the management of natural resources, particularly land and water, energy and food security as major priorities for women in areas affected by drought and desertification, and provided targeted recommendations in order to improve those aspects.

27. **Civil society and desertification.** The conference, scheduled for September 2006 in Montpellier, France, is being organized in conjunction with the European Networking Initiative on Desertification, the Government of France, the city of Montpellier and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

28. **Bamako Conference on Youth and Desertification.** The secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, in collaboration with the Governments of Finland, Germany, Italy and Mali, will hold an international conference on Youth and Desertification in Bamako as one of several major conferences to mark the International Year of Deserts and Desertification.

29. **Global assessment of the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.** The conference will be organized in Buenos Aires immediately after the fifth session of the Committee on the Review of the Implementation of the Convention.

30. **Desertification and migration.** The Government of Spain has indicated that a symposium will be held from 25 to 27 October 2006 in Almeria, Spain. Consultations for the organization of the symposium with the host country are ongoing and invitation letters to focal points and non-governmental organizations will be sent in the near future.

D. Action requested of the General Assembly

31. The seventh session of the Conference of the Parties was held after the 2005 World Summit, at which world leaders resolved to address the causes of desertification and land degradation and the poverty resulting from them. The Conference of the Parties also adopted a number of decisions to strengthen the

process and implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, particularly in the light of the recommendations made by the Joint Inspection Unit. Intergovernmental working groups were established by the Conference of the Parties to carry out the envisaged reforms.

32. The General Assembly, convinced that pockets of poverty are widespread in rural and degraded lands, has long recognized that the Convention constitutes a major international instrument that could contribute to poverty eradication and help to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The Assembly may therefore wish to renew the commitments of the international community, as was done at the 2005 World Summit, to allocate more financial resources to rural development, particularly for the rehabilitation of degraded lands. The Assembly may also wish to lend its support to the current debate on how to strengthen the Convention and its implementation.

33. The Conference of the Parties has recognized the importance of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development for raising international awareness of and commitment to the implementation of the Convention through their thematic focus on agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification, and the need for timely and substantive preparations for input of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to this process. The Assembly may wish to guide the Convention on a way forward.

34. At its sixtieth session, the General Assembly, following up its resolutions 52/198 of 18 December 1997 and 56/196 of 21 December 2001 on institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements between the United Nations Secretariat and the secretariat of the Convention by its resolution 60/201, approved the continuation of the current institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements for a further five-year period, to be reviewed by both the General Assembly and the Conference of the Parties no later than 31 December 2011. The Conference of the Parties adopted a number of reforms requiring the Assembly's support, particularly the introduction of the euro as the budget and accounting currency from 2008-2009. The Assembly may wish to support this move aimed at protecting the Convention budget against the negative impact of currency fluctuation.

35. With regard to the celebration of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification, following up its resolution 60/200, the General Assembly may wish to request the designated focal points to assess the impact of the Year on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the awareness raised concerning the need to protect drylands. Such an assessment will be submitted for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its eighth session.

III. Report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

A. Introduction

1. In its resolution 60/202 of 22 December 2005, the General Assembly invited the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue reporting on the ongoing work regarding the Convention, including the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The present report has been prepared in response to that invitation.

B. Overview of the outcome of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

2. The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Curitiba, Brazil, from 20 to 31 March 2006, was preceded by regional preparatory meetings, a brainstorming session on the impact of avian flu on wildlife and an expert meeting on protected areas. It was a landmark event in the life of the Convention. It set a new record in terms of participation, totalling over 4,000 participants representing some 160 Governments and 885 organizations. A total of 34 decisions were adopted, underlining the commitment of the parties to further enhance the implementation phase of the Convention. They stressed the need to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target and the three objectives of the Convention. To that end, they invited the General Assembly at its sixty-first session to proclaim 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity. The parties reaffirmed the role of the Convention as the key international instrument in setting the global biodiversity agenda as well as its contribution to the efforts of the international community towards a more sustainable future.

3. A number of memorandums of understanding and agreements were concluded between the secretariat of the Convention and other organizations on the margins of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. They include:

(a) An agreement for the establishment of a head of agency task force for achieving the 2010 biodiversity target with the participation of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Commission on Trade and Development, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the World Conservation Union, the World Wide Fund for Nature and the International Plant Genetics Resources Institute;

(b) A memorandum of understanding with the following six major institutions to support the enhanced implementation phase of the Convention: the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History; the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle de France; the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation; the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences; and the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development of Saudi Arabia;

(c) A memorandum of understanding with the Universidade Livre do Meio Ambiente to promote education, training and public awareness focusing on youth and children;

(d) An agreement signed with the World Conservation and Monitoring Centre of UNEP for the implementation of relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its eighth session in the area of technical support and capacity-building.

4. For the first time in the history of the Convention, an interactive high-level ministerial segment was organized from 27 to 29 March 2006 with the participation of 130 ministers and other heads of delegation. The meeting was opened by the President of Brazil, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. The participants considered the implications of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the contribution of biodiversity in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. They also considered the imperative of mainstreaming biodiversity into other sectors, specifically food and agriculture and trade and development, for the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target. Ministers and other heads of delegation stressed that the 2010 target and the Millennium Development Goals should be mutually supportive. The ministers marked the celebration of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification. More than 300 participants attended a working breakfast for ministers and chief executive officers of private companies. A total of 97 ministers and other heads of delegation made formal statements presenting their national experiences regarding the implementation of the Convention. A summary of the high-level segment was submitted by the President of the Conference of the Parties, Marina Silva, Minister of the Environment of Brazil, at the closure of the meeting.

5. The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties addressed a number of critical issues in the global biodiversity agenda that were central to the realization of the target of significantly reducing the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, which was endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The meeting established an intersessional process for an in-depth review of the implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention. It stressed the need for the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and adopted voluntary guidelines to be used by parties for the review and updating of such strategies and action plans. The second Global Biodiversity Outlook, which was launched at the meeting, contained an overview of the status of implementation of the Convention, progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target and its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

6. At the meeting, particular emphasis was placed on the engagement of stakeholders for the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target. A decision focusing exclusively on the engagement of the private sector was adopted. A number of decisions aimed at promoting the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the Convention process were also adopted. The Conference decided to undertake an in-depth review of the availability of financial resources, including through the financial mechanism, at its ninth meeting. The review would, inter alia, examine how the Resource Allocation Framework adopted by the Global Environment Facility would affect the availability of resources, given the individual and group allocations to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the implementation of the Convention.

7. One of the most significant achievements of the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting was the adoption of a structured framework and a time frame for the further elaboration and negotiation of an international regime on access to

genetic resources and benefit-sharing. The Conference of the Parties welcomed the progress made by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing in the negotiation of an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, and instructed the Working Group to complete its work at the earliest possible time before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in 2010.

8. At the programmatic level, the Conference of the Parties adopted a new programme of work on island biodiversity. It is the first time that the uniqueness and fragility of island biodiversity have been addressed through a specific work programme and in a manner that will provide for new partnerships. The programme of work sets out 50 priority island-specific actions, under five goals. The meeting also undertook an in-depth review of the programmes of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the Global Taxonomy Initiative. The Conference of the Parties further stressed the importance of developing specific approaches to technology transfer and technological and scientific cooperation to address the prioritized needs of countries.

C. Outcome of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

9. The third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was attended by a total of 1,295 participants from 99 parties to the Protocol, 15 non-parties and 224 organizations. The meeting adopted 18 decisions on the following substantive issues: compliance under the Protocol; the Biosafety Clearing-House; capacity-building; the roster of biosafety experts; matters relating to financial mechanisms and resources; cooperation with other organizations, conventions and initiatives; programme budget for the Protocol for the biennium 2007-2008; handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms (article 18 of the Protocol); risk assessment and risk management; liability and redress under the Protocol on Biosafety; subsidiary bodies; monitoring and reporting; assessment and review; and other issues, including transit.

10. A major breakthrough was made at the meeting regarding the issue of detailed requirements for documentation accompanying shipments of living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (para. 2 (a) of article 18 of the Protocol), on which agreement had eluded Governments since the negotiation of the Protocol. Parties to the Protocol are requested and other Governments are urged to take measures to ensure that documentation accompanying living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing contain the statements specified in paragraph 4 of the decision. The parties decided to review and assess the experience gained with the implementation of the agreed documentation requirements and to examine the capacity-building efforts made in developing countries in that regard at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

11. With regard to documentation for shipment of living modified organisms destined for contained use and living modified organisms intended for introduction into the environment (article 18, paras. 2 (b) and (c), respectively), participants

agreed to consider at their fourth meeting a report on the experience gained in the use of a commercial invoice or other documents required or utilized by existing documentation systems, or pursuant to national requirements with a view to future consideration of a stand-alone document.

12. The parties to the Protocol also took the first steps concerning the consideration of the need for and modalities of developing standards with regard to identification, handling, packaging and transport practices in accordance with article 18, paragraph 3, of the Protocol.

13. The issues of capacity-building, risk assessment and risk management, information-sharing and the use of the Biosafety Clearing-House remain central to the effective implementation of the Protocol. The meeting adopted a revised Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol, as well as measures to facilitate its implementation and effectiveness and to foster coordination and synergies between different capacity-building initiatives. A format for the first regular national report on implementation of the Protocol was adopted and a schedule and the process for the preparation and synthesis of the reports for consideration at the fourth meeting were established. Further guidance regarding measures to enhance the operation, accessibility and use of the Biosafety Clearing-House as well as measures for building capacities to enhance national participation in the Clearing-House was also provided.

14. Overall, the outcomes of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, in particular the decision on detailed requirements for documentation accompanying shipments of living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing, generated renewed support for the Protocol. The new tools and mechanisms adopted and the additional guidance provided to parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and the Executive Secretary will significantly advance the practical implementation of the Protocol.

D. Specific outcomes of special interest to the General Assembly

15. At its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties addressed two aspects of biodiversity in marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, namely, the conservation and sustainable use of deep seabed genetic resources; and marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction. In the case of deep seabed genetic resources, the Conference of the Parties recognized that there was an urgent need to enhance scientific research and cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of those resources. The Conference also indicated that it was aware of a preliminary range of options for the protection of deep seabed genetic resources beyond national jurisdiction, and emphasized the need for further work in developing them and other options, in particular within the framework of the United Nations. It recognized that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea regulated activities in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, and requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and other relevant organizations, to further analyse options for preventing and mitigating the impact of some activities on selected seabed habitats.

16. The discussions on the issue of marine protected areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction focused on the role of the Convention in relation to the General

Assembly, in particular, its Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. The Conference of the Parties recognized the central role of the General Assembly in addressing issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction. It also noted the work of the Working Group and the possible options and approaches identified by the Co-Chairpersons of the Working Group, including assessing the need for an implementing agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Conference of the Parties invited the General Assembly, at its sixty-first session, to establish a timely follow-up process for the enhanced conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The Conference of the Parties encouraged parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and other Governments to actively participate in that process, and requested the Executive Secretary to continue to provide input relevant to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Conference recognized that the Convention on Biological Diversity had a key role in supporting the work of the General Assembly with regard to marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction, by focusing on the provision of scientific and, as appropriate, technical information and advice relating to marine biological diversity, the application of the ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach, and in achieving the 2010 target.

17. In the area of agricultural biodiversity, the Conference adopted a cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition. The overall aim of the initiative is to promote and improve the sustainable use of biodiversity in programmes contributing to food security and human nutrition as a contribution to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7 and related goals and targets.

18. The Conference of the Parties adopted a decision on genetic use restriction technologies. It reaffirmed its decision V/5, section III, which underlined the need for a precautionary approach to such technologies. Further research was encouraged and calls were made to respect traditional knowledge and farmers' rights to the preservation of seeds under traditional cultivation. The governing body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was invited to examine, within the context of its work, priorities, available resources, and the potential impact of genetic use restriction technologies, with special consideration of the impact on indigenous and local communities and associated traditional knowledge, smallholder farmers, and breeders and farmers' rights. The strong demand for capacity-building and technology transfer on that subject was noted, and there was a call to strengthen such support.

19. The Conference of the Parties re-emphasized the critical role of outreach and communication, education and public awareness in supporting the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target. To that end, parties agreed to implement at the national and regional levels a short list of priority activities for the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness in support of the development and implementation of biodiversity strategies and action plans. In addition, the Conference of the Parties invited the General Assembly, at its sixty-first session, to consider adopting a resolution proclaiming 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity.

20. It should be noted, that for the first time, action has been taken to offset the environmental impact of Convention processes. A memorandum of understanding was signed by the Executive Secretary and the Governor of the State of Parana (Brazil) for planting, before the end of 2006, 8 million trees in the State of Parana to offset the environmental impact of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. A similar agreement was signed by the Executive Secretary and Wangari Mathai, the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, to plant trees in Africa through the Green Belt Movement to offset the environmental impact of the meetings organized by the secretariat.

E. Recommendations

21. **The General Assembly may, at its sixty-first session, wish, inter alia:**

(a) **To take note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;**

(b) **To note the outcome of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;**

(c) **To also note the outcome of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;**

(d) **To express its deep appreciation to the Government of Brazil for successfully hosting the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;**

(e) **To express its deep appreciation also to the Government of Germany for its offer to host both the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in 2008;**

(f) **To recall paragraph 56 (c) of its resolution 60/1 on the 2005 World Summit, in which Heads of State and Government resolved that all States would fulfil their commitment to significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 and continue ongoing efforts towards elaborating and negotiating an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing;**

(g) **To endorse the draft resolution submitted by the Conference of the Parties and declare 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity;**

(h) **To welcome the progress made in the negotiation of an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing and the decision to conclude negotiations by 2010, and urge parties to make every effort to complete the negotiation process within the established time frame;**

(i) **To recognize the key role of the Convention on Biological Diversity in supporting the work of the General Assembly with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national**

jurisdiction, by focusing on the provision of scientific and, as appropriate, technical information and advice relating to marine biological diversity, the application of the ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach, and in achieving the 2010 target;

(j) To note the progress made by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in establishing an effective framework for the implementation of the Protocol, and stress that it would require the full support of parties and of relevant international organizations, in particular with regard to the provision of assistance to developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition in capacity-building for biosafety;

(k) To urge States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention;

(l) To urge parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Protocol to do so as soon as possible;

(m) To invite the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to submit to the sixty-second General Assembly a report on the ongoing work regarding the Convention and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.